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TORONTO • WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 10 2008 metronews.ca

business pg 16

New look iPods unveiled

Body brings 401 to halt

Victim allegedly shot, dumped in broad daylight

Toronto police are questioning a woman after a bizarre attack where a man's body was dumped from a speeding car on Highway 401 yesterday afternoon, creating traffic mayhem.

After the car, a champagne-coloured Lexus, sped away, stunned motorists stopped to call police, turning Canada's busiest highway into a parking lot just as rush hour began.

Dozens of cars stood empty and motionless in their lanes, abandoned by drivers eager to escape the gridlock. Others were able to turn around and leave the highway, with the help of emergency personnel.

"A person has been taken in for questioning in relation to what occurred on the highway," Toronto Police Const. Tony Vella said, Toronto Police were called around 2:45 p.m. to the eastbound collector lanes of Highway 401, near Keele Street, where they found the man's body.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Man not identified

- In a late-night news conference, police would not identify the man, but said the attack did not seem connected to a shooting Monday in the same area.

AARON LYNETT/AARON LYNETT

Police investigate a bizarre incident on Highway 401 yesterday afternoon in which a body was allegedly thrown from a moving vehicle on to the eastbound collector lane near Keele Street.

Election 2008 pg 10

- No Greens please: Tories, NDP
- Harper not a 'veggie'
- Dion Hippest of them all
- Planted questions at forestry meet?

Sport pg 26

'The Don' returns to Argonauts

ShareYourViews
torontoletters@metronews.ca

Fan fare **Norton hears a 'whoo'**

FRANK GUNN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Ed Norton signs autographs for fans as he arrives for the screening of Pride and Glory at the Toronto International Film Festival yesterday. **More TIFF coverage, see pg. 18-25**

Harper, Dion get an earful on cities

Election 2008

Prime Minister Stephen Harper and Liberal Leader Stéphane Dion rolled into Greater Toronto last night looking to woo urban voters — and got a blast from Mississauga Mayor Hazel McCallion demanding that Ottawa do more to help Canada's cities.

McCallion laid out a chilly welcome mat for the two leaders, telling a Mississauga Board of Trade luncheon that the cash being spent on the election triggered by the Conservatives — some $297 million — should have been pumped into municipal infrastructure. "There must be change, said McCallion. "Are we going to stand up and make that happen?"

McCallion's call to action came as both party leaders held events at opposite ends of the GTA last night — Harper in Mississauga and Dion in Pickering.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Peterson to helm Games bid

Former premier David Peterson will today be named chair of Toronto's bid for the 2015 Pan Am Games, the Toronto Star has learned.

Premier Dalton McGuinty is to make the official announcement in a move that should give a major boost to the $1.77-billion plan to hold the sports event in Toronto.

Peterson, who played a key role in the city's efforts to host the 1996 and 2008 Olympics, is well regarded in world of international sporting politics.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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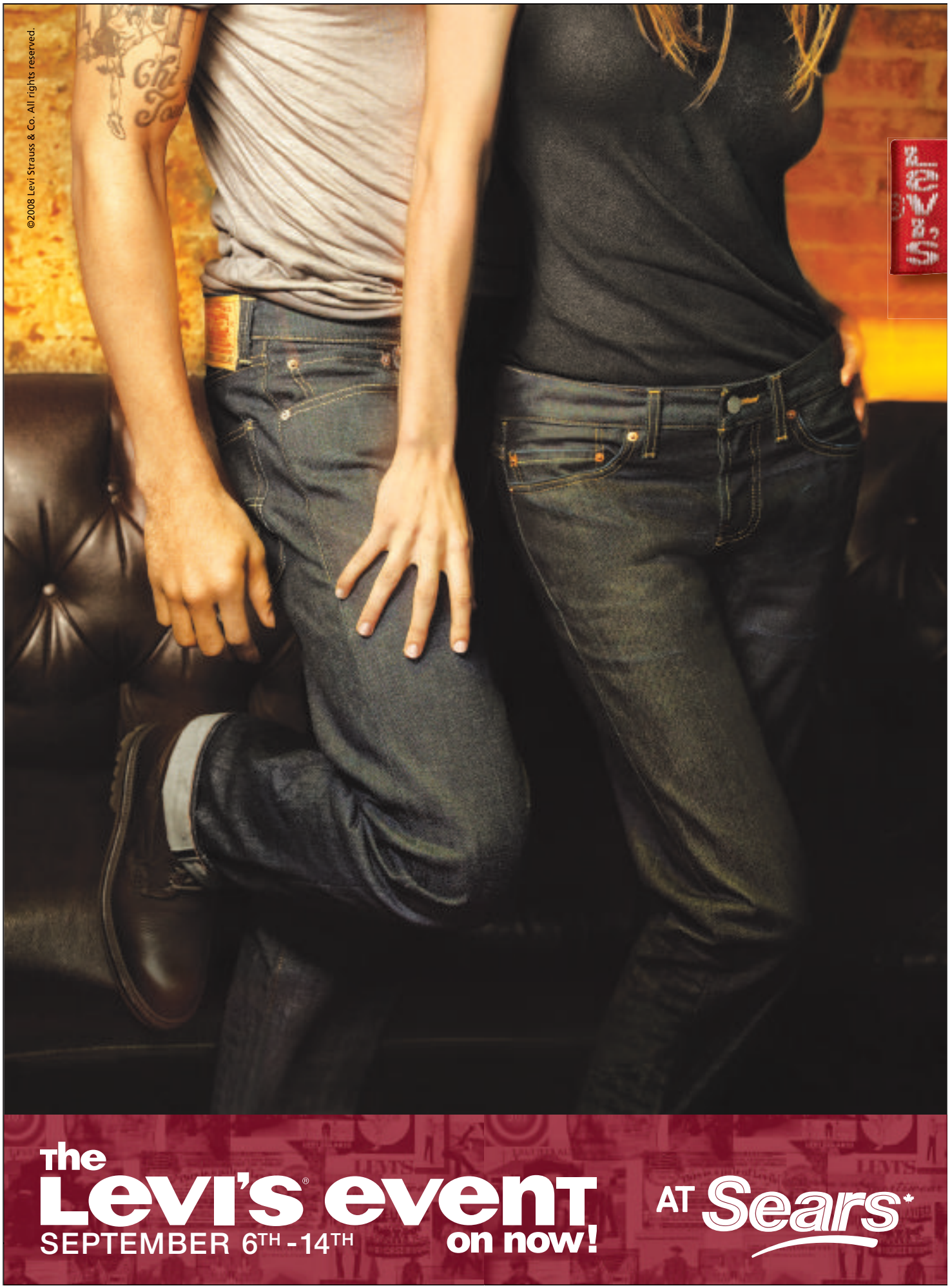
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Arrest warrant issued for limo firm operator
A warrant has been issued for the arrest of George Maillis, 34, one-half of the husband and wife duo behind Tuxedo Limousines that is alleged to have scammed high school students on their prom nights, after he failed to appear in an Oakville court. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Local

Strictly for birdwatchers

Lee Allen Peterson, son of author Roger Tory Peterson — one of the world's most famous naturalists and inventor of the modern field guide — has reissued a revised version of the 1934 classic Peterson Field Guide to the Birds with added features. Peterson Field Guide to Birds of North America combines previous editions, runs to more than 500 pages, and covers more than 800 species. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Celebrity Buzz Pg 55

Tomorrow's Metro

Food

Barb Holland welcomes fall's apples and cooks up Apple Ginger Pudding with Lemon Sauce.

metronews.ca

What's online today.

Read our new election blog, The Hustings Hustle, for up-to-the-minute coverage of campaign 2008
Check movie showtimes, trailers and reviews at metronews.ca/movies
Search for jobs using Metro's Workopolis search
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Lotteries

Ontario Pick 3	943
Ontario Pick 4	7522
Encore	8100893
Daily Keno	4, 7, 13, 16, 17, 26, 34, 37, 38, 41, 46, 47, 49, 50, 53, 56, 60, 66, 67, 68.

These results are not official.

News in brief

SHUT DOWN An all-hours booze can near Steeles Avenue West and Highway 400 that had been operating illegally in Emery Village off and on for more than two years has been shut down after weeks of lobbying by Coun. Giorgio Mammoliti. The Alcohol and Gaming Commission pulled One Love Restaurant's liquor licence Monday.
TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Past fails to trip up Rae

Mississauga mayor skewers former NDP premier

The last person a politician wants to take on is Hurricane Hazel so it wasn't looking good for Bob Rae yesterday.

"Bob Rae used to be the head of a party I really didn't support that much," began the indomitable mayor of Mississauga, giving Rae the eagle eye from the podium. "But he saw the light. He's now with the Liberals."

It could have been worse. It's not such ancient history the former NDP premier of Ontario ushered in tough policies during the recession of the early 1990s during his one and only term.

"Bob Rae used to be the head of a party I really didn't support that much. But he saw the light."
Hazel McCallion

But campaigning in Mississauga-Streetsville with Liberal candidate Bonnie Crombie yesterday, Rae was a hit, how-de-do-ing his way through the stores and coffee shops of Streetsville's Queen Street.

Rae (Toronto Centre) is joining such luminaries as Michael Ignatieff (Etobicoke-Lakeshore) and Ken Dryden (York Centre) in trying to garner support outside their own ridings.

Rae campaigned in voterich Mississauga with Crombie against Liberal-turned-Conservative Wajid Khan, before moving on to Liberals Navdeep Bains in Mississauga-Brampton South and Omar Alghabra in Mississauga-Erindale.
TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Cops set up home base in schools

Eight Catholic and 19 public high schools will serve as a home base for Toronto police officers as part of a plan to build bridges with students and the community.

The officers, who could start as early as next week, will have some office space in the schools to set up a laptop. An officer will be assigned to each school but also visit neighbouring ones, said Paul Crawford, the superintendent responsible for safe schools at the Toronto Catholic District School Board.
TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Duties

- The officers, who will be armed and in uniform, will participate in school councils, school activities and work on initiatives with students, addressing issues such as safety and cyber-bullying.

Teen gunned down called 'a nice guy'

The teens stood close to the makeshift memorial, laying flowers, leaning on each other for comfort and carrying photos of their dead friend.

"He was a nice guy," said friend Rikka Vescio, 17, as she placed her bouquet on the memorial. "He was a good friend."

Stephen Barton — known around his northwest neighbourhood as exceptionally athletic, fun loving and loyal — was gunned down in broad daylight in front of a bus stop on Eglinton Avenue West near Glenhaven Street on Monday. The 18-year-old was pronounced dead at the scene.

Witnesses reported seeing a man running up Glenhaven following the shooting. The suspect is described as 6-foot-2, with a medium build, corn rows in his hair, light brown eyes and was wearing dark pants and a dark hat, police said.

Five area schools were locked down for about an hour after Barton was shot.
TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

United Way goal **Building a better tomorrow**

SAUL PORTO/TORONTO NEWS

Toronto Mayor David Miller and United Way Toronto president and CEO Frances Lankin unveil the citywide 2008 fundraising goal of $110 million at Nathan Phillips Square yesterday. The 2007 campaign raised $108.1 million. Money raised this year will help support 250 programs, including Women Moving Forward, a project at the Jane/Finch Community and Family Centre.

Workers fired over skirt length

Temporary worker Nadifo Yusuf hiked up her skirt to mid-calf over her long pants and tucked in her hijab and neck scarf to be "more safe and secure" when climbing an 18-foot ladder to flip heavy boxes on a conveyer belt at the United Parcel Service plant, she told a Canadian Human Rights Tribunal.

Yusuf, 35, a devout Muslim, and seven other Muslim women lost their jobs at the UPS plant for refusing to raise their skirts up over their long pants.

The women filed a complaint with the Canadian Human Rights Commission alleging that UPS discriminated against them on the basis of their religion and their gender.

The hearing continues.
TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Bus driver blames medical condition

TESTIMONY A former school bus driver charged with impaired driving said his drunken appearance on the day of his arrest in July 2007 was the result of a medical condition and not related to alcohol.

Jerry McNeill, 59, was pulled over by police after he picked up nearly 40 children from a water park in Scarborough and drove them down the Don Valley Parkway.

McNeill's wife testified her husband suffers from severe clinical depression and had recently been diagnosed with bipolar disorder.
TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Toronto police cleared in arrest

The province's Special Investigations Unit has cleared Toronto police of wrongdoing in the arrest of Aaron Francois last month. On Aug. 4, a parking enforcement officer was checking a suspect vehicle on Sackville Avenue when he was confronted by a man and a fight took place. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Woman found stabbed to death

Haleema Kasana didn't show up for work this weekend. And she wasn't answering her cellphone. Her friends got worried and went to her fifth-floor apartment at 2350 Finch Ave. W., near Weston Road.

Police later discovered the 21-year-old's bloodied body inside. She had been stabbed "more than once" with a "sharp object," said Det. Chris Neal.

Numerous friends of the girl have spoken to police and investigators are interviewing potential witnesses, but as of yesterday afternoon, there were no suspects and no motive.

Kasana is Toronto's 48th homicide victim.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Firm backs meat slicer

Maple Leaf Foods believes the "most likely" explanation for deadly Listeria contamination in some of its products was an accumulation of bacteria deep within its meat slicing equipment, but the machine's manufacturer insists its product was not to blame.

There are nearly 300 Formax S-180 meat slicing machines installed at processing plants around the world and an estimated 2.3 billion kilograms of sliced meat have been produced over the last 13 years without incident, said Brian Sandberg, a spokesman for Illinois-based Formax, Inc.

"There has never been a serious food safety issue with any of the S-180 slicers."
Formax spokesman

"There has never been a serious food safety issue associated with any of the S-180 slicers — including the machines at the Maple Leaf facility, which have been in production for more than 11 years," Sandberg said in an e-mailed statement.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Public help sought again in robberies

CRIME Toronto police holdup squad has issued a second call for public assistance in tracking down a suspect in a series of bank robberies in Toronto over the last month.

Since the first police bulletin last Friday, two more holdups have taken place.

Corey Lee Richardson, 39, is now wanted for 13 bank robberies dating back to Aug. 12. All occurred in the downtown core between 11 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. Richardson is described as black, 5-foot-6 and 161 lb.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

IN PERSON
Miriam Toews
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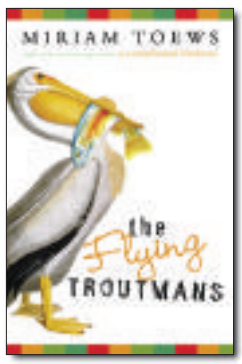
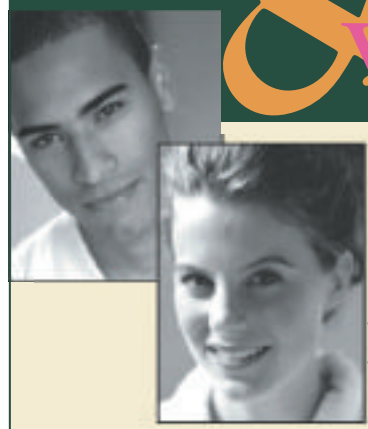


Meet beloved Canadian author **Miriam Toews**, winner of the 2004 **Governor General's Literary Award** for fiction for her novel, *A Complicated Kindness*. Ms. Toews will be reading from and signing copies of her new book, *The Flying Troutmans*.

Indigo
indigo.ca/events

men & women



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Square One
Toronto Eaton Centre
Upper Canada Mall
Vaughan Mills
Yorkdale Mall

Repatriation ceremony for fallen soldier

A repatriation ceremony will be held today at CFB Trenton for the latest Canadian soldier killed in Afghanistan. Base information officer, Lieutenant Annie Morin, says the body of Sgt. Scott Shipway is scheduled to arrive at 2 p.m. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canada

Grow-op busted, destroyed

Police have seized and destroyed more than 11,000 marijuana plants from an area about 60 kilometres northeast of Peterborough after a raid yesterday morning. Officers found a man living at a site in Apsley that contained nearly 3,000 plants, and found another 8,000 across the road. Police said they arrested the man, who is in his 50s and from the Toronto area, after also finding him in possession of two loaded shotguns and two pit bull dogs. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Change family courts: Judge

There is a large appetite for the review and reform of Ontario's family courts, Ontario Chief Justice Warren Winkler said yesterday.

Currently, there are only 17 "unified," or dedicated family courts scattered in various pockets of Ontario. None are located in Toronto.

"The time has arrived to implement a properly serviced unified family court system," Winkler said at a ceremony to mark the official opening of Ontario's courts for the year.

Winkler's comments were echoed yesterday by the top judges in Ontario's lower courts.

Chief provincial court Justice Annemarie Bonkalo said judges are faced with handling a high volume of child protection, custody and support cases, and an increasing number of people who don't have a lawyer, meaning judges are forced to spend valuable court time giving basic advice and help.

"The time has arrived to implement a properly serviced unified family court system." Ontario Chief Justice Warren Winkler

"... like Chief Justice Winkler, I worry that our courts might not always be able to meet the challenge," said Bonkalo, adding that she supports Winkler's call for a family law review.

"Coming to a just decision is much, much harder when litigants are on their own in court."

Across Ontario, the need for strengthening the province's family law system is at "the tip of everyone's tongue," Attorney General Chris Bentley said after yesterday's speeches.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Granny charged for hitting cop

EDMONTON An 81-year-old grandmother has been charged after she allegedly struck an Edmonton police officer with a cane. Police say officers were called to a motel on Monday to help staff remove three unregistered guests, including two females and a male, who were causing trouble in a suite. Lillian Peacock is facing a charge of assaulting a police officer. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Would you change your religion to get your child into a better school?

Growing Minds Week

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September 14 to 20 starting at 7pm.

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makes you think

Court hears of Radwanski's advance

TRIAL George Radwanski's fraud trial has been told the former privacy commissioner took out a $15,000 travel advance in 2002 to pay his government credit-card expenses instead of travel.

Court also heard yesterday a former financial director in his office was so concerned about Radwanski's hospitality expense claims — because the forms regularly declared one of his top aides as the guest — that she mounted her own audit of them.

Radwanski and his former chief of staff, Arthur Lamarche, face fraud and breach-of-trust charges over the travel advance and a $16,000 payment in lieu of vacation Radwanski received without first accruing the work time required to earn the holiday.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Taliban's tough message

Election 2008

The Taliban say they know that an election campaign is underway in Canada and that's why they have stepped up attacks against Canadians in Afghanistan.

Taliban spokesman Qari Muhammad Yussef said yesterday the insurgent movement wants Canada's next prime minister to pull Canadian troops out of Afghanistan.

"Yes, I know that the election is being held in Canada. That is why our attacks on Canadians are increased," Yussef said through a translator.

"One of the Canadian soldiers, who has won a medal as well, was killed in our recent attacks."

Sgt. Scott Shipway died Sunday when his armoured vehicle struck an improvised explosive device in the volatile Panjwaii district of Kandahar.

The seasoned soldier, who was cited for saving a comrade's life during his previous tour in Afghanistan in 2006, was just days away from the end of his second tour when the blast occurred.

Yussef said he's familiar with Stephen Harper but isn't sure about the other candidates or parties running in the Canadian election.

"Yes, I know that the election is being held in Canada. That is why our attacks on Canadians are increased." Taliban spokesman Qari Muhammad Yussef

While he doesn't know which party is most likely to withdraw Canadian troops from Afghanistan, Yussef said such a platform will be "good for that party and for their nation and for the Canadian people."

"My suggestion for the next prime minister is to withdraw Canadians from Afghanistan," he said, adding Canada needs to stop following U.S. foreign policy.

"When any of these party leaders come to power, the first thing they must do is ask the Canadians to come from Afghanistan to Canada."

Liberal Leader Stéphane Dion responded: "We will not be intimidated by the Taliban."

NDP Leader Jack Layton said: "The suggestion that there's going to be violence meted out against Canadian soldiers to try and influence the election here is reprehensible."

"We'll decide our own policies right here in Canada with regard to the war in Afghanistan," he said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Neighbour testifies in arson proceedings

It was the shrieks of two young children that woke the woman who lived next door to a Vancouver family killed in an arson fire, a B.C. Supreme Court jury heard yesterday.

"I opened my eyes and my whole bedroom was orange," the woman testified at the trial of Nathan Fry, who is charged with five counts of first-degree murder for setting the May 15, 2006 blaze.

The woman, whose name is under a publication ban, testified that she raced across the street in only her underwear, hoping to save her neighbours as their home went up in flames.

She said she banged at the door as two of the children — playmates of her own young daughter — screamed her name. The heat was so intense that a burst of fire from a ground-floor window burnt off half of her waist-length hair.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Tragic blaze

- Adela Etibako, 39, her three children and 17-year-old Ashley Singh, her son's girlfriend, were killed in the arson fire that ripped through the Vancouver town house.

News in brief

MURDER A man convicted of the murders of two teenage girls three decades after their deaths will not get a new trial, the B.C. Appeal Court has ruled. Robert Bonisteel was convicted in 2005 of the 1975 murders of Judy Mariea Dick and Elizabeth Zeschner, both 14. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Oil spill cleanup in Alberta
Cleanup was underway yesterday at the site of an oil leak in southeastern Alberta that killed up to 300 birds and ducks. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Moms criticize Palin

Canadian hockey lovers doubt her sincerity

Almost two weeks after her surprise pick as John McCain's running mate, Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin remains a lightning rod for fierce debate, even among Canadian hockey moms.

Some dyed-in-the-wool Canadian hockey moms are doubting whether the Alaska governor can truly be of their tribe, joining a chorus of Palin critics that include feminists like Gloria Steinem to Facebook enthusiasts who have created groups like "I Have More Foreign Policy Experience Than Sarah Palin."

"I don't know how she can possibly be a hockey mom if she has five kids and one is disabled and she's trying to become the next vice-president of the United States," Margot LeBlanc, a Toronto mother of three, said yesterday.

STEPHAN SAVOIA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Republican vice-presidential candidate, Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin, poses for a picture in Lebanon, Ohio, yesterday.

"The people I know who are true hockey moms either work part-time, work out of their home or have a really helpful spouse who's sharing the load many nights a week."

Liz Goddard, one of the founders of Edmonton-based website www.hockeymoms.com, suspects Palin's hockey mom-dom has more to do with politics than reality.

"She's a politician so she's going to use whatever she has to in an attempt to get people to relate to her and to tell them something about herself," she said. "But being a hockey mom is just one small part of what she's about, and people need to look at the issues and decide if being a hockey mom has anything to do with what she has to offer."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Khawaja case wrapping up

TERRORISM Momin Khawaja's "special ideological brand of hatred" led him to plot a terrorist attack with like-minded extremists in Britain, says a federal prosecutor.

As he began to summarize his case yesterday, Crown attorney David McKercher said there's no doubt the Ottawa software developer should be convicted of the charges against him.

"He meant to become the West's mortal enemy," McKercher told the Ontario Superior Court trial. "It was his intention to bring death and destruction to the West."

Khawaja, arrested more than four years ago, faces seven charges of financing and facilitating terrorism, including the key allegation he built a remote-control device for use in bomb attacks planned, but never executed, by Islamic extremists in the United Kingdom. Five alleged co-conspirators were convicted in London last year.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

News in brief

SURVEY Nearly 30 per cent of Canadians nearing retirement are less than confident the money they're socking away for when they leave the workforce will suffice to maintain their standard of living, according to data from Statistics Canada. The survey, released yesterday, found that 19 per cent of respondents aged 45 to 59 are expecting their retirement income will be "barely adequate." Another nine per cent expect it to be "inadequate" or "very inadequate."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Harper vows to cut tax on diesel, aviation fuel

Stephen Harper pledged to slash the federal tax on diesel and aviation fuel to two cents a litre from four cents over the next four years. He said yesterday the tax cut would keep the prices of shipped goods down, offset rising energy prices and protect the pocketbooks of families. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Election 2008

Tories, NDP block Greens

Harper, Layton steadfast in refusing to allow May to debate on TV

PAUL MCLEOD
Metro Canada

The Green party is still fighting to get into the leaders' debates, but the Conservatives and NDP stand in their way.

Green party Leader Elizabeth May was shut out of the debates by a consortium of TV broadcasters, which said other party leaders refused to participate if May was allowed to speak.

Liberal Leader Stéphane Dion has called for May to be included in the debate and Bloc Québécois Leader Gilles Duceppe backed off yesterday by saying he would take part either way.

But Conservative Leader Stephen Harper and NDP Leader Jack Layton remained steadfast. They said it would be a second voice for the Liberals because of May's comments supporting Dion and the fact the Liberals are not running a candidate against her in the Nova Scotia Central Nova riding.

"The idea that there's some kind of broad coalition with the Liberals is nonsense," said May. "We're running in 306 ridings across Canada where we are trying to defeat Liberals and Liberals are trying to defeat Greens."

May said she wanted to use the debates as a way to expand on the Green party's platforms other than the environment — such as fiscal responsibility and tax reform.

But an NDP spokesman told Metro News that May should not be allowed in the debates because of her comments supporting the Liberals — period.

"If Ms. May endorses Stéphane Dion for prime minister she can't be in this debate," said press secretary Ian Capstick.

"Her position will be represented in the debate. Sure, if Dion wants to give up his spot for his deputy leader or his coalition partner Ms. May, no problem. We'll take her in the debate."

Capstick said May wouldn't bring anything to the debate because the Green party is a single-issue party. When told of May's earlier comment about wanting to talk about various issues, he only repeated his statement:

"The Green party is a single-issue party."

Tough battle

- On legal turf, May faces a tough battle to challenge her exclusion. Charles Dalfen, a former chair of Canada's broadcast regulator, the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission, said May has no legal right to equal airtime in the biggest media event of the campaign.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Workers say they were duped

Desperate laid-off forestry workers said they were tricked into attending NDP Leader Jack Layton's town hall meeting yesterday in Thunder Bay.

At least five members of the Canadian Energy and Paper Workers union said they were told it was going to be a meeting about benefits.

"I got an e-mail from the union thinking it was a union meeting on severance and EI (Employment Insurance) benefits. When I seen the bus out front I knew there was a politician," said a man who refused to give his name.

However, Allan Pert, a life-long resident of Thunder Bay and laid-off sawmill worker, confirmed he received the same e-mail, which actually came from the CEP action centre, not the local union.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Planted questions

- Besides this, Layton was also called on what appeared to be planted questions from the crowd of more than 100 supporters.

TOM HANSON/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Conservative Party Leader Stephen Harper answers questions yesterday at a news conference during a campaign stop at a vegetable processing plant in Winnipeg.

Trying to root out the important issues

Conservative Leader Stephen Harper found himself momentarily speechless yesterday when faced with an unexpected question in a Winnipeg produce warehouse.

"If you were a vegetable, what type of vegetable would you be and why?" came the query.

Harper grinned and then looked at the vegetable stands around him quizzically.

"Um, I, um, you know, I really don't know how to answer that one," he said, finally.

He then found his answer:

"Let me say this: I would choose, if I had to, instead to be a fruit. Just what I am, sweet and colourful."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Rock the vote

ADRIAN WYLD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

The Tragically Hip guitarist Rob Baker.

Dion may not be Hip, but he has guitarist's support

ARTS Rob Baker, lead guitarist for The Tragically Hip, added a cool note to the arrival in Napanee, Ont., of Liberal Leader Stéphane Dion.

Someone couldn't resist asking if Baker thought the notoriously stiff Dion was cool enough to earn the support of the rock crowd. Baker, with his long hair and Pierre Trudeau T-shirt, said "No," the leader wasn't hip.

But "I don't care whether the leader's hip," he told reporters outside a Liberal campaign event.

"I don't care whether the leader's a snappy talker or snappy dresser. I care whether they have content and something to back it up."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

News in brief

ENVIRONMENT The climate change debate is veering onto the wrong track with suggestions that taking care of the environment could hurt the economy, says David Suzuki. "Let's hope that the economy versus the environment (debate) will not continue — it's not either/or — without the environment there is no economy," Suzuki said yesterday.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

34 days remain until the 2008 Canadian federal election

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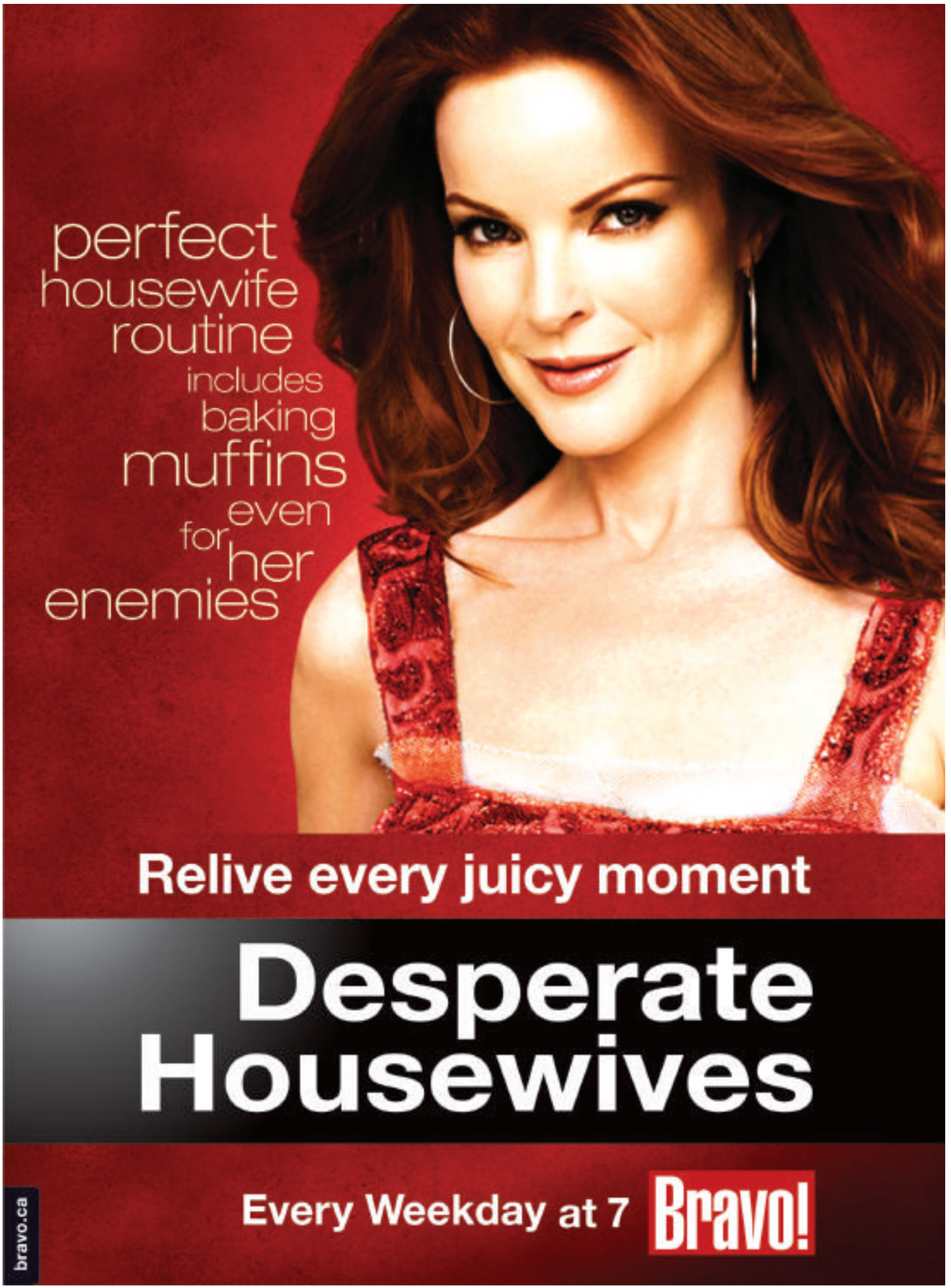
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Reporting rules expire in China

China says the relaxed media controls during the Beijing Olympics will expire Oct. 17. The loosened rules allowed reporters to interview Chinese citizens without government approval. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

World

Thai PM ousted

A Thai court removed Prime Minister Samak Sundaravej yesterday for taking pay to host a TV cooking show, setting off wild celebrations by protesters occupying his office compound.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

U.S. 'dangerously vulnerable'

TERRORISM An independent study reportedly concludes that the United States remains "dangerously vulnerable" to chemical, biological and nuclear terrorism seven years after the Sept. 11 attacks.

Lee Hamilton, a former Democratic congressman from Indiana who now chairs the independent group, also says the recent political rupture between Moscow and Washington only makes matters worse.

The report produced by Hamilton's bipartisan Partnership for a Secure America, says efforts to reduce access to nuclear technology and bomb-making materials have slowed and thousands of U.S. chemical plants are unprotected.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Pakistan's new chief

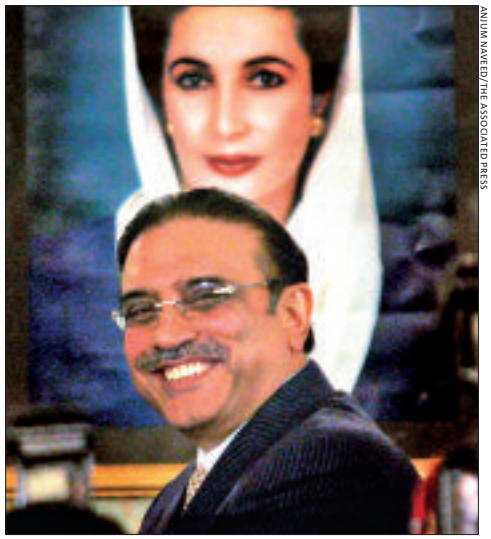
Benazir Bhutto's widower takes reins of troubled country

Asif Ali Zardari began his term as Pakistan's new president yesterday by indicating Islamabad's continuing support for the U.S. war on terrorism and citing the country's ties with Washington as a chance to overcome its economic problems.

Three days after winning election by legislators, the widower of assassinated former Pakistani leader Benazir Bhutto took the oath of office at a brief ceremony in the presidential palace vacated by Pervez Musharraf, who resigned last month under pressure.

With his three children and Bhutto's sobbing sister among the well-wishers and dignitaries packing a cavernous hall, Zardari beamed as the ceremony ended amid shouts of "Bhutto is alive!"

But in the front row sat a reminder of his task ahead: Afghan President Hamid Karzai, whose government has accused Islamabad of failing to take action against Taliban militants based in Pakistani tribal areas near the Afghan border.



ANJUM NAVEED/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Asif Ali Zardari takes office as Pakistan's new president, facing immediate pressure to crack down on Islamic militants.

"The fact that we are on the globe and we are in the eye of the storm, I consider that an opportunity."
Asif Ali Zardari, newly-named President of Pakistan

Karzai said afterward that Pakistan's new government augured well for both countries and said Zardari's "intentions" echoed his own.

"As far as America is concerned, the fact that we are on the globe and we are in the eye of the storm, I consider that an opportunity," Zardari said at a news conference.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Obama puts heat on Palin

Listening to Barack Obama, it can seem like Republican vice-presidential nominee Sarah Palin is the main person standing between him and the White House instead of John McCain.

Obama is putting as much heat on Palin as he is on the man at the top of the Republican ticket, objecting to the party's portrayal of her as a reformer who can bring change to Washington.

That is supposed to be Obama's distinction, and he's not taking kindly to Palin trying to claim it.

Palin's poll effect

- McCain has jumped to a dead heat or narrow lead over Obama in the latest national polls since choosing Palin as his running mate.

He said Palin really is just another Republican politician, one that is stretching the truth about her record.

"When John McCain gets up there with Sarah Palin and says, 'We're for change,' ... what are they talking about?" Obama said, arguing that they aren't offering different ideas from U.S. President George W. Bush.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

News in brief

BLAME British police say the United States is to blame for a London jury's failure to convict eight men of plotting to bomb transatlantic airliners. The officials said the men were arrested too soon because of U.S. pressure.

THEFT A large mechanical gorilla that was swiped in broad daylight from outside a store in Maine has surfaced several hundred kilometres away. The store owners say offers to help retrieve the gorilla poured in. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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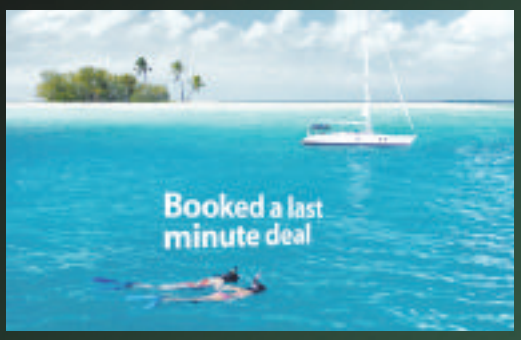

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Can't forget the past

With other prospective jurors listening in his robbery-kidnapping trial, a woman lectured O.J. Simpson on his behaviour as a celebrity and declared, "I felt he got away with murder." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Kim Jong Il seriously ill?

Kim Jong Il was absent yesterday at a closely watched parade marking the 60th anniversary of North Korea's founding, and western officials said the all-powerful leader — who has not appeared publicly for a month — may be gravely ill.

North Korea's state media was silent about his absence from the parade, a relatively low-key ceremony that unexpectedly lacked much of North Korea's trademark military display, though still took on a decidedly martial flavour.

Kim Jong Il

In a broadcast monitored in Seoul, Korean Central Television showed North Korea's No. 2 leader and other officials and military officers atop a viewing stand. Kim Jong Il was not shown.

In Washington, a western intelligence official said that it was possible the 66-year-old, known to his people as the "Dear Leader," was gravely ill after he failed to show up at the celebration.

South Korea's Yonhap news agency cited an unidentified government official saying that Kim is ill and that he appeared to have collapsed. The official said it is certain that the North's leader is not dead. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Son of Nation of Islam founder dies

RELIGION A nephew says Imam W.D. Mohammed, the son of Nation of Islam founder Elijah Muhammad, has died.

Sultan Muhammad says his uncle died yesterday.

He didn't immediately give further details but says the family will issue a statement.

W.D. Mohammed moved thousands of blacks into Islam. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

News in brief

LAWSUIT French authorities say the Church of Scientology and seven of its top members will stand trial in Paris on fraud charges. The charges stem from an investigation into allegations by a former member that the church swindled her out of more than $28,000.

TRANSIT America's public transportation systems logged a five per cent jump in ridership, as sky-high gas prices push people to take transit. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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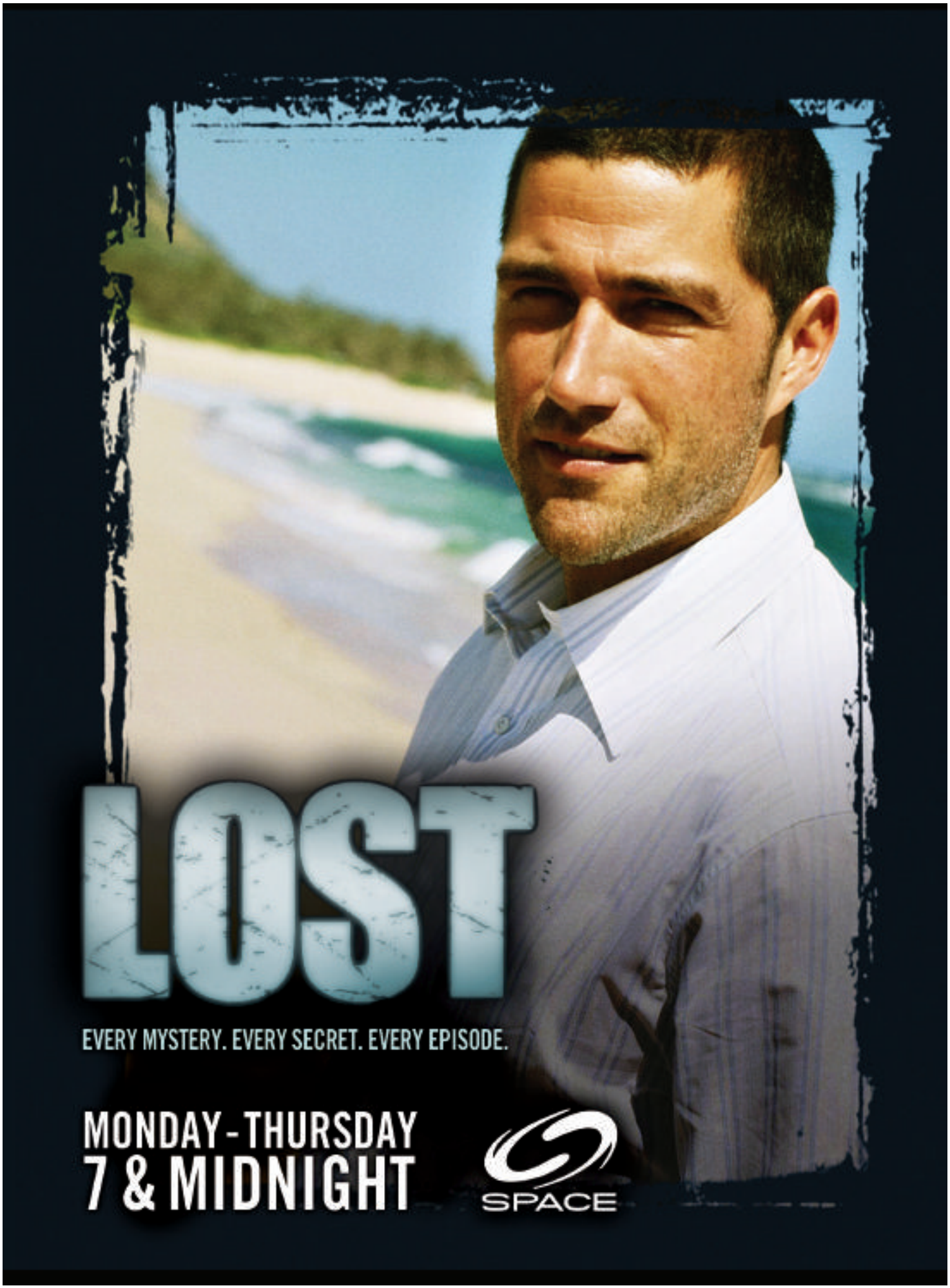
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U.S. budget deficit will hit $407 billion this year

Calculations by the Congressional Budget Office show the U.S. budget deficit is forecast to reach $407 billion for the year ending Sept. 30. The flood of red ink will spill over into next year, when the deficit will hit a record $438 billion. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Business

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EDITOR: FERMIN DESOUZA, FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

KFC moves its secret recipe

SECURITY KFC hired off-duty police officers and private security guards as it moved Colonel Harland Sanders' secret recipe, handwritten on a yellowing sheet of paper, from KFC's corporate offices to an undisclosed location in an armored car. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

iPods get makeover

Apple Inc. CEO Steve Jobs took the wraps off a revamped line of iPods yesterday and trumpeted a truce with NBC Universal that means the TV network will begin selling programs again on iTunes.

PAUL SAKUMA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Apple CEO Steve Jobs introduces new colours of the new iPod Nano at a product announcement in San Francisco yesterday.

The iPod upgrades include two slick new Nano models, oval-shaped devices that Jobs said are the thinnest iPods Apple has ever made. A $149 US version comes with eight gigabytes of memory; a 16-gigabyte version is $199 US.

Prices in Canada for the Nano are $169 for the 8GB model $219 for the 16GB model and Apple said they are available immediately. The Shuffle will cost $55.

Appearing thin but energetic, Jobs kicked off the event by flashing a snarky message on a screen: "The reports of my death are greatly exaggerated." Jobs, 53, is a survivor of pancreatic cancer. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ontario eyes electric-car network

TALKS The Ontario government is in early talks with a Silicon Valley technology company about turning Toronto and surrounding areas into an electric transportation hub, complete with electric charging infrastructure and manufacturing of battery-powered vehicles.

According to a presentation document, Better Place would invest about $150 million to support 100,000 electric-car subscribers with charging stations and battery-swap centres in an 80-to-160-kilometres radius of Toronto. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Air Canada offers Internet service

INFLIGHT Air Canada will offer inflight Internet services for $12.95 per flight next spring on flights to the U.S. West Coast where the signals are available. U.S. based Aircell plans to bring its air-to-ground technology to Canada once it has regulatory approval. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Business in brief

PRIVACY Google said yesterday it will reduce the time it stores search information on its search engine from 18 months to nine to meet EU privacy demands.

BANKING The investment climate will be helped by the government bailout of U.S. mortgage giants Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, but people should "stay nervous" as there is lots of restructuring still ahead, top officials of Canada's major banks warned yesterday.

GLITCH The London Stock Exchange Group blamed a software glitch, not high trading volumes, for a seven-hour shutdown on one of the busiest days of the year on world markets. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Murdoch's Russia ad firm searched

RAID Russian investigators raided the Moscow offices of billionaire Rupert Murdoch's outdoor advertising firm as part of a probe into charges against a top official at the city government's advertising committee. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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film festival
TORONTO INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL • METRO SPECIAL ISSUE
TORONTO • WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 10 2008 metronews.ca

EDITORS: STEPHANIE BOMBA, stephanie.bomba@metronews.ca & JIM REYNO, jim.reyno@metronews.ca

Nothing but praise Pg 21

NATHAN DENETTE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

An interview with Sir Ben Kingsley, star of Fifty Dead Men Walking.

In focus Pg 22

PAUL TILL PHOTO

Gil Bellows talks to Metro about playing a street person in Toronto Stories.

At the movies Pg 22

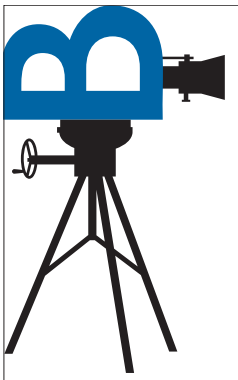
Read reviews of TIFF films Control.Alt. Delete, Nurse.Fighter.Boy, and more.

The naked truth

Pg 20

MATT CARR/GETTY IMAGES

"I was really terrified that just doing straight-up lovemaking with that sequence, we would lose the audience at that point and they'd be like, 'Oh, this is f**king boring. What happened to the comedy?'" director Kevin Smith says of his latest film, Zack and Miri Make a Porno.



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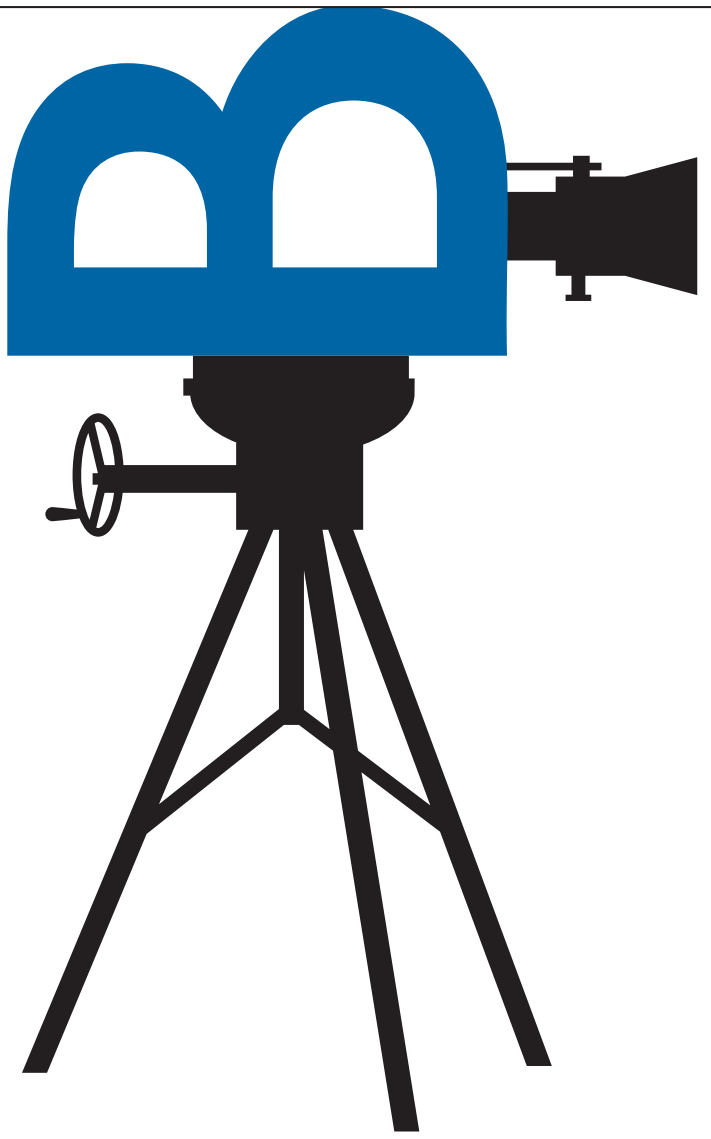

movie lover

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Nurse. Fighter. Boy powerful film to watch

STEVE GOW
for Metro Toronto

FIRST FILM Getting your very first movie made in Canada is no easy feat. Getting it into the Toronto International Film Fest is another thing altogether.

So, for writer and director Charles Officer, all the positive reviews he's been receiving for his urban drama Nurse. Fighter. Boy have been the proverbial icing on the cake.

"I was preparing myself for the worst because I think you have no idea how something's going to be received," says Officer. "Any sort of criticism — I probably already thought of it so nothing is really going to phase me."

Lucky for the actor-turned-filmmaker, criticism has been minor and, in fact, most people are enjoying the intimate love story between the eponymous nurse, a fighter and a boy.

Clark Johnson (TV's The Wire) stars as Silence, a washed-up boxer who street fights in order to get by. When one battle turns particularly ugly, Silence heads to the hospital where he meets Jude (Karen LeBlanc), an ailing nurse and single mom to Ciel (Daniel J. Gordon), a boy who performs magic and doesn't really fit in with the other kids.

"I'm the boy, but I probably won a few more fights (than the character does)," says Officer. "I would say a lot of the scenes and the idea and where the film comes from is just from things that I experienced."

The film explores the faith and trust of people growing up in an urban Toronto neighborhood and the search for family and a sense of home. It was capturing those themes that led Officer to sign up cinematographer Steve Cosens (The Tracey Fragments) to play with the use of color to set the tone.

"(Cosens and I) talked a lot about creating a hybrid-organic look and I wanted it to feel raw and just have an honest look and a stylized look as well," explains Officer.

As such, Nurse. Fighter. Boy is a powerful film to watch, distinguishing locations with strong colours of the palette that wash scenes in bright blue and orange. "It does have a logical effect whether you know it or not," says Officer. "Colours represent things and it was really great to explore that."

Smith takes a risk

JIM REYNO
jim.reyno@metronews.ca

Where it's usually thrust and lust, paw and prod — here's something different. Something genuine and gentle, sweet and subtle — lovemaking on film like in real life.

Shot on a sack of coffee beans, for a flick about a homemade porno.

"I didn't know how I was going to shoot it because how does one shoot intimate lovemaking?" director Kevin Smith said about the sex scene between Seth Rogen and Elizabeth Banks in Zack and Miri Make a Porno.

"We've seen examples in movies, and it's always like slo-mo shots, or naked bodies with the hand running down it. It always looks like Red Shoes Diaries to me, the old soft-core porn stuff."

Smith, having a smoke behind the Elgin Theatre yesterday while his film screened at the Toronto International Film Festival, said he waited until the last week of shooting before addressing the key scene in his comedic love story.

JEFF VESPA/WIREIMAGE

Filmmaker Kevin Smith and Elizabeth Banks joke around in front of the camera. Banks stars in Smith's film, Zack and Miri Make a Porno with Seth Rogen, right.

On the day they were going to shoot the scene, Smith called Rogen and Banks out of their trailers.

"And I said, 'Look, I know we were never really clear about what we were doing; this was always a mystery that nobody wanted to talk about by the time we got to the scene. But I think I'm going to have you guys do it fully clad and just play it on your faces,'" Smith said.

"I think it plays so well, because it's all about what's on their faces. We show sex prior to that with Katie Morgan and Jason Muise, and it's very over-the-top, a caricature of porn sex, which is even a caricature of real sex.

"For this one, I wanted to be as intimate as possible," he says. "The world just fades away from them and they're locked into one another. I'm kind of proud of it. It works."

Make no mistake: Zack and Miri Make a Porno is a raunchy movie. Rogen and Banks play two lifelong friends who turn to pornography when faced with dire financial straits. The movie can be crass, and it's full of locker-room laughter.

All of which made the Rogen-Banks love scene a bigger risk.

"I'll be honest with you, it was a little scary to do before seeing it with an audience," Smith said. "You have them with all the comedy, and when the laughs are rolling, you're so resistant to releasing that and letting a dramatic moment play.

"I was really terrified that just doing straight-up lovemaking with that sequence, we would lose the audience at that point and they'd be like, 'Oh, this is f**king boring. What happened to the comedy?' I ultimately decided to go with the gut on it ...

"But then the most wonderful thing happened when we first saw it with an audience. They were with it. People were so with the lovemaking scene. I was so delighted by that, because it is a pretty good representation."

Zack and Miri Make a Porno: ●●●½

For years, Kevin Smith's detractors predicted his career would die once he stopped using Jay and Silent Bob. Fortunately, he has proved them wrong with Zack and Miri Make a Porno, a delightfully raunchy and surprisingly touching romantic comedy that only he could make. The title says it all plotwise, with the almost-overexposed Seth Rogen and the about-to-break-through Elizabeth Banks perfectly cast in the title roles. As with all of Smith's productions, the ambition is low. All he's aiming for is laughs, but when they come this consistently and uproariously, it's hard to complain.

— Phil Brown
/for Metro Toronto

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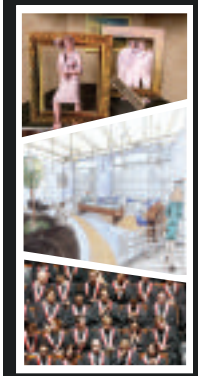

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Film Reviews

●●●●● A CLASSIC; ●●●● EXCELLENT; ●●● GOOD; ●● FAIR; ● POOR

Hurt Locker a fest highlight

●●●●½

REVIEW Kathryn Bigelow's taut, brutal film about a team of bomb disposal technicians working in Baghdad is a festival highlight, and a return to strengths for the director of Near Dark and Blue Steel. Jeremy Renner plays the reckless but brilliant expert whose suicidal disregard of safety and protocol makes his fellow soldiers regard him as a bigger threat than the enemy all around them.

Rick McGinnis/Metro Toronto

A Year Ago in Winter

●●●½

REVIEW A year after Alexander died, his mother commissions an artist to create a portrait of him and his 21-year-old sister. We soon learn Alexander committed suicide — that is when the tortured truth starts to emerge. This German film, directed with finesse by Oscar winner Caroline Link, explores the lies we tell ourselves to avoid dealing with feelings that may be too overwhelming to confront.

Steve Veale/for Metro Toronto

Medicine for Melancholy

●●½

REVIEW Melancholy showcases the 24-hour period following a one-night stand between Joanne and Micah. Filmed in San Francisco, the drama works best when it plays with ideas of gentrification and living in one of America's most expensive, but beautiful, cities. Unfortunately, the two leads aren't all that particularly interesting.

Steve Gow/for Metro Toronto

Adoration

●

REVIEW An ambitious but convoluted meditation on storytelling in the Information Age, Adoration concerns a Toronto teen whose drama-class assignment takes on a life of its own after it's posted online. It's not that Atom Egoyan is lacking for ideas so much as that he seems incapable of placing them in a credible dramatic context; the script is riddled with contrivances and explicit thematic statements.

Adam Nayman/for Metro Toronto

More reviews on Page 22

Sir Ben sings Kari's praises

STEVE VEALE
for Metro Toronto

Sir Ben Kingsley has nothing but praise for Canadian director Kari Skogland.

"What she created was quite extraordinary," he said. "By looking at this very male story of violence and killing with a female eye, she brought an entirely different perspective to the film; you not only see women and children throughout the story, but you soon understand how the violence affects them as well."

Sir Ben Kingsley is here promoting Fifty Dead Men Walking, the true story of former IRA infiltrator Martin McGartland and his role in "The Troubles" in Belfast during the 1980s.

(A lawsuit was recently averted when the real-life Martin McGartland threatened to come out of hiding to protest the film version of his novel. However, he is apparently satisfied with Skogland's final version. "I had to fictionalize a whole bunch of it because I was talking about real people," explained Skogland, who worried about reprisals on those still living.)

"We stuck to the script," Kingsley explained, "and Kari allowed me to be very still — which for me is a work method of some kind."

Indeed, the art of "stillness" is very much required to play the British agent named Fergus, who turns the young McGartland (an unrecognizable Jim Sturgess) into an informer.

The two form a bond over the years and their fates are intertwined in this game of betrayal and death.

As the handler, Fergus had to be "as blank a page as possible" — a person who would (could) never allow anyone to see who he really is. Indeed, the audience doesn't know until the very end if he's a good guy — will he save the young Martin or allow him to be sacrificed?

"There are no good or bad people in this film," Kingsley said. "Both sides firmly believe they are right."

In the '80s, Kingsley went to Belfast to attend a film festival. "It was pretty frightening," he said. "There were armed guards everywhere, security checks, and a wall built down the street to separate former neighbours."

NATHAN DENETTE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

"What she created was quite extraordinary," Sir Ben Kingsley says of his Fifty Dead Men Walking director, Canadian-born Kari Skogland.

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Film reviews

●●●●● A CLASSIC; ●●●● EXCELLENT; ●●● GOOD; ●● FAIR; ● POOR

Better Things powerful stuff – and well-paced

●●●●

REVIEW Loosely related stories of love, loss and loneliness are brought together in Duane Hopkins' powerful, impeccably paced first full-length feature, Better Things. With very minimal dialogue, the film is compelled to communicate primarily through visual expression, a task performed impressively by a cast of mostly first-time actors.

Characters act or sometimes just exist to a limited supporting soundtrack that emphasizes natural sounds and silence to build a realist drama. It's not for mainstream audiences, but for modern artistic cinema buffs, it doesn't get much better than Better Things.

Brian Coulton/for Metro Toronto

Happy-Go-Lucky

●●●½

REVIEW Happy-Go-Lucky quite aptly describes the mood and spirit of director Mike Leigh's (Topsy-Turvy, Vera Drake) new picture — although the quiet desperation of contemporary London still manages to lurk under the surface. Poppy (Sally Hawkins) is a 30-year-old London schoolteacher who always looks on the bright side of life. She loves her job, adores her friends — and she especially cherishes her personal freedom.

When her bike gets stolen, Poppy casually decides to take driving lessons. However, she gets saddled with a terminally angry and bitter instructor (Eddie Marsan), who slowly becomes obsessed with her. While not much comes of the rest of the story, Happy-Go-Lucky still basks in Sally Hawkins' eccentrically charming and spirited performance.

Kevin Courrier/for Metro Toronto

Che: Part 1

●●●●

REVIEW Split into two films after a mixed reception at Cannes, the first part of Steven Soderbergh's epic bio-pic of Che Guevara is the movie audiences would expect. The film is about the revolutionary's triumphant victory in Cuba told in the hyper-realist aesthetic that the director first employed in Traffic.

The movie combines the harsh realities of fighting in the Cuban jungles with a 16mm recreation of Guevara's infamous speech to the UN.

It's a powerful ode to the cultural icon with a stunning lead performance by Benicio Del Toro that is enriched by the more pessimistic second film.

Phil Brown/for Metro Toronto

Che: Part 2

●●●●

REVIEW This second chapter of Steven Soderbergh's ode to Che Guevara is an indispensable companion piece to the first film.

Shot with a more subdued style and colour palette, the movie is about Guevara's failed attempt to spread the revolution throughout Latin America. This film expands on the first with all of Che's best qualities working against him, leading to a tragic downfall in Bolivia.

The two chapters should play as one epic 4½-hour whole. But that would be commercial suicide, so audiences will get two theatrical releases instead … better than nothing, I suppose.

Phil Brown/for Metro Toronto

Nurse.Fighter.Boy

●●●½

REVIEW In this Canadian directorial-debut by Charles Officer, Clark Johnson (TV's The Wire) plays a rugged over-the-hill boxer who, after a street fight, falls for a nurse (Karen LeBlanc) with a critical ailment and her slightly-eccentric 12-year-old son (Daniel J. Gordon).

While this film is definitely in no hurry to move the action along, it is strongly supported by a quietly intense performance from Johnson and some gripping, gorgeous cinematography.

Steve Gow/for Metro Toronto

Sophie Okonedo stars in Skin.

Skin

●●●●

REVIEW Skin is based on the true story of Sandra Laing, who was born black during the apartheid era in South Africa. Her parents, however were white, racist Afrikaners. Yet they love their child and raised her to believe she was white. Her father even took the case to court to prove his daughter was white.

But when the adult Laing (played by Sophie Okonedo) falls in love with a black man, the family's racist wrath bursts forth. Sandra Laing grew up in an almost schizophrenic environment.

This is a powerful movie. See it — but go prepared.

Steve Veale/for Metro Toronto

T.O. Stories told

STEVE VEALE
for Metro Toronto

The tape from this interview could fill an entire magazine because actor Gil Bellows and David Weaver, writer/director of Toronto Stories are both jazzed.

"This actually started the first time we talked," said Weaver. "When I called Gil, he was in Los Angeles and he became so passionate about the project that I had to tell him to pull over and get off the freeway."

Toronto Stories is an anthology of four interwoven narratives created by four different directors and set in Toronto — which actually appears as itself for a change.

The Weaver/Bellows connection provides the final and darker chapter of the film where some issues are resolved while others simply continue. Just like real life.

Bellows plays a man who has had some type of psychotic break and is living somewhere between the benches of Union Station and a cardboard box in an alley, his manner challenging, his clothes unkempt, his hair patchy and his next fix just around the corner.

"When I asked Gil if we could buzz his head (but only in spots) he said, 'Great idea!'" said Weaver. When you see the film, you'll discover Bellows has no problem looking like a street person.

"It is great working with David," said the actor, "because he is able to capture so much meaning in such a short period of time." Short indeed — the shoot was a mere five days.

Weaver is still a young filmmaker and definitely a talent to watch and while the Vancouver-born Bellows certainly isn't old, he has been on screen for some time now. He was 26 when he made The Shawshank Redemption. "When Morgan Freeman heard my age he told me that he had waited 27 years for his break," remembered Bellows.

It is Bellows who surprises here. Fans please note: All traces of Billy from the '90s TV hit Ally McBeal are long gone. "He brings a gravitas to the role," explained Weaver.

"Somewhere along the way, I got disconnected from the work," confessed Bellows. "It started to feel like a job. It was only when I got a little older that I realized that this isn't a dress rehearsal." So he decided to start taking more risks with his career.

As an actor, he concludes, "you want to be known as being good at what you do."

You will see a new Gil Bellows in Toronto Stories — someone who is good at what he does. Very good indeed.

PAUL TILL/FOR METRO TORONTO

Gil Bellows, right, plays a street person in one of the four narratives — directed by David Weaver, right — in Toronto Stories.

Hawkins Happy with role

STEVE GOW
for Metro Toronto

"I had no idea what I was going into."
Sally Hawkins

She may have won the best actress award at the Berlin Film Festival in February, but for Sally Hawkins, working on the life-affirming comedy Happy-Go-Lucky, it may be its odd origin that she'll remember most.

"I had no idea what I was going into or what film; what it was going to be about," says Hawkins of director Mike Leigh's (Vera Drake) latest offering to TIFF. Renowned for his unusual style of improvising entire movies, it takes a brave thespian to partake in a Mike Leigh movie.

"You start from nothing and he gets this group of actors together and he's just as terrified as anyone else," explains Hawkins of Leigh's clean-slate style.

"I can't imagine how scary it must be because he has no script and he has no idea where he's going."

It's true. Leigh practically starts with nothing but a thread of a story and brings actors together flushing out the characters by building up huge, extensive backgrounds that include such intimate details as childhood memories, favourite foods; even what they received as Christmas gifts.

In the case of Happy-Go-Lucky, Leigh and Hawkins crafted Poppy, an eternal optimist who stuns audiences by being richly positive in sardonic London. At first, however, the character's glass-half-full approach is slightly irritating, something Leigh admits he hoped would happen with audiences.

"He didn't tell me that," laughs Hawkins. "I thought she was extraordinary."

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Today's film screenings

ROY THOMSON HALL
60 Simcoe St.

Fifty Dead Men Walking 9:30 PM
The Lucky Ones 6:30 PM

RYERSON THEATRE
Ryerson University
43 Gerrard St. E.

A Year Ago in Winter 12 PM
Good 9:15 PM
Martyrs 11:59 PM
Slumdog Millionaire 3:15 PM
The Hurt Locker 9 AM
What Doesn't Kill You 6:30 PM

SCOTIABANK THEATRE 1
259 Richmond St., 416-368-5600

Acolytes 6:45 PM
Adoration 12:45 PM
Le Silence de Lorna (Lorna's Silence) 9:45 AM
Tears for Sale (Čarlston za Ognjenku) 9:15 PM
Tulpan 3:45 PM

SCOTIABANK THEATRE 2
259 Richmond St., 416-368-5600

Borderline 9:45 PM
Everlasting Moments (Maria Larssons eviga ögonblick) 6:30 PM
Happy-Go-Lucky 9 AM
Sugar 3:30 PM
Un Conte de Noël (A Christmas Tale) 12 PM

SCOTIABANK THEATRE 3
259 Richmond St., 416-368-5600

7915 KM 3 PM
Better Things 12:15 PM
L' Heure d'été (Summer Hours) 9:15 AM
Radio Love 5:45 PM
The Rest of the Night (Il Resto della notte) 9 PM

SCOTIABANK THEATRE 4
259 Richmond St., 416-368-5600

Ashes of Time Redux 9:30 AM
Four Nights With Anna (Cztery noce z Anną) 3:15 PM
PA-RA-DA 6 PM
Revanche 9:30 PM
Tale 52 (Istoria 52) 12:30 PM

WINTER GARDEN THEATRE
Elgin & Winter Garden Theatre Centre
189 Yonge St.

Il y a longtemps que je t'aime (I've Loved You So Long) 8 PM

JACKMAN HALL
Art Gallery of Ontario,
317 Dundas St. W.

Liverpool 9:30 PM
PROGRAMME 4 7 PM

VARSITY 1
Manulife Centre, 55 Bloor St. W., 2nd floor, 416-961-6304

Khamsa 7 PM

VARSITY 2
Manulife Centre, 55 Bloor St. W., 2nd floor, 416-961-6304

Shakespeare and Victor Hugo's Intimacies (Intimidades de Shakespeare y Víctor Hugo) 8:45 PM

VARSITY 3
Manulife Centre, 55 Bloor St. W., 2nd floor, 416-961-6304

Return to Hansala (Retorno a Hansala) 8 PM

VARSITY 4
Manulife Centre, 55 Bloor St. W., 2nd floor, 416-961-6304

Süt 9 PM

VARSITY 5
Manulife Centre, 55 Bloor St. W., 2nd floor, 416-961-6304

Birdsong (El Cant dels Ocells) 8:30 PM

VARSITY 6
Manulife Centre, 55 Bloor St. W., 2nd floor, 416-961-6304

Kabuli Kid 7:30 PM

VARSITY 7
Manulife Centre, 55 Bloor St. W., 2nd floor, 416-961-6304

Je Veux Voir (I Want to See) 6:45 PM

VARSITY 8
Manulife Centre, 55 Bloor St. W., 2nd floor, 416-961-6304

Les Plages d'Agnès (The Beaches of Agnès) 7:15 PM

VISA SCREENING ROOM
Elgin & Winter Garden Theatre Centre
189 Yonge St.

A Woman in Berlin (Anonyma – Eine Frau in Berlin) 6 PM
Che (Part 2) 9 PM
Easy Virtue 2:30 PM
The Burning Plain 11 AM

YONGE & DUNDAS 24 AMC THEATRE 1
10 Dundas St. E., 416-977-2642

Peace Mission 2:15 PM
Uncertainty 7:15 PM

YONGE & DUNDAS 24 AMC THEATRE 2
10 Dundas St. E., 416-977-2642

Cooper's Camera 2:45 PM
Medicine for Melancholy 5:45 PM
Under Rich Earth (Bajo Suelos Ricos) 8:45 PM

YONGE & DUNDAS 24 AMC THEATRE 3
10 Dundas St. E., 416-977-2642

PROGRAMME 3 3:30 PM

YONGE & DUNDAS 24 AMC THEATRE 4
10 Dundas St. E., 416-977-2642

Blind Loves (Slepe lásky) 9 PM
Lion's Den (Leonera) 6 PM

YONGE & DUNDAS 24 AMC THEATRE 5
10 Dundas St. E., 416-977-2642

Blind Loves (Slepe lásky) 9 PM
Nurse.Fighter.Boy 2:30 PM
Teza 5:30 PM

YONGE & DUNDAS 24 AMC THEATRE 6
10 Dundas St. E., 416-977-2642

Control Alt Delete 8:15 PM
Killing Kasztner 5 PM
Three Wise Men (Kolme viisasta miestä) 2 PM

YONGE & DUNDAS 24 AMC THEATRE 7
10 Dundas St. E., 416-977-2642

Linha de Passe 6:15 PM
One Week 3:15 PM
Skin 9:30 PM

YONGE & DUNDAS 24 AMC THEATRE 9
10 Dundas St. E., 416-977-2642

The Real Shaolin 9 PM
The Stoning of Soraya M. 2:45 PM
Upstream Battle 6 PM

ISABEL BADER THEATRE
University of Toronto, Victoria College
93 Charles St. W.

Adam Resurrected 7:45 PM
Plastic City (Dangkou) 4:45 PM
Valentino: The Last Emperor 10:30 PM

1. Alliance Atlantis Cumberland Cinemas
159 Cumberland Avenue

2. Cineplex Odeon Varsity Cinemas
Manulife Centre
55 Bloor Street West, 2nd Floor

3. Isabel Bader Theatre, University of Toronto
Victoria College
93 Charles Street West

4. Industry Box Office
Sutton Place Hotel
955 Bay Street, 2nd floor, Amsterdam Room

5. Ryerson Theatre
Ryerson University, 43 Gerrard Street East

6. AMC Theatres – Yonge & Dundas 24
10 Dundas Street East

7. Festival Box Office at Toronto Life Square
Toronto Life Square
10 Dundas Street East, 3rd floor

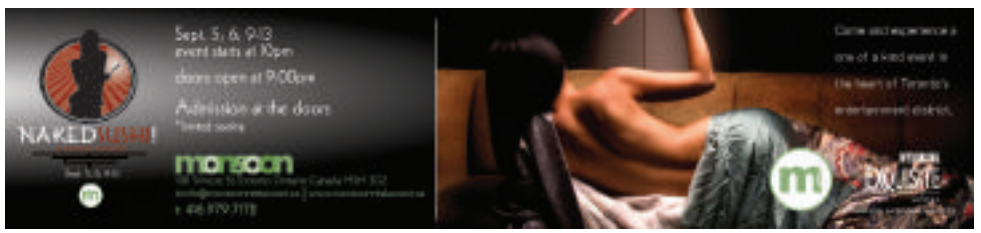
8. Jackman Hall
Art Gallery of Ontario
317 Dundas Street West

9. VISA Screening Room & Winter Garden Theatre
Elgin & Winter Garden Theatre Centre
189 Yonge Street

10. Cineplex Odeon Scotiabank Theatre
259 Richmond Street West

11. Roy Thomson Hall (RTH)
60 Simcoe Street

VALENTINE DE LANDRO ILLUSTRATION



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Stars living the Lymelife

Real life brothers Kieran Culkin and Rory Culkin play brothers in the family drama Lymelife.

PHOTOS BY JOHN KENNEDY/HELLO! CANADA

ABOVE: Timothy Hutton, one of the stars of Lymelife, which opened at TIFF on Monday.

LEFT: Kate Beckinsale signs autographs for fans waiting outside Sopra on Davenport Road after attending the gala presentation of her new movie Nothing But The Truth at Roy Thomson Hall.

Emma Roberts, whose father is actor Eric Roberts and whose aunt is superstar Julia Roberts, looked striking as she arrived at the Lymelife party hosted by CTV.

Canadian star Jill Hennessy, right, poses at the CTV pre-party with her twin sister Jacqueline.

HELLO! CANADA

Check out HELLO! Canada on the newsstand or go to www.hellomagazine.ca/tiff for exclusive coverage of the Toronto film fest.

Alec Baldwin, left, reunited with Lymelife director Derick Martini at the pre-party hosted by CTV.

ENZA SUPERMODEL PHOTOS

Paris Hilton strikes a pose at the gala premiere of Paris, Not France at the Ryerson Theatre yesterday.

Get that money shot

TIFF after **dark**
enza.supermodel@metronews.ca

One rule I've learned when photographing celebrities is always call them by their first name. Seconds count when you're trying to get that money shot.

The best place to try this theory out is tonight at the ET Canada Studio Lounge, at Casa Loma. The Lounge caps off their final night of four with the Fifty Dead Men Walking after-party. Look for **Sir Ben Kingsley**, **Jim Sturgess** and **Kevin Zegers** to fill the old halls of Canada's famed ghost-rumoured castle. Tonight at 10 p.m.

If a sex party is more your thing, then the cast of Control. Alt. Delete — Reaper star **Tyler Labine** and **Sonja Bennett**, star of last year's fest hit movie, Young People F**king, and director/actor **Kevin Smith** — will definitely get you off. This film fest orgy is going on at Toronto's famed swingers club, Wicked, at 1032 Queen St. West, tonight at 9 p.m.

Celebrity overload? Then Yonge-Dundas Square will put you in more relaxed state as the Shaolin Monks present a martial arts demonstration at 6 p.m.

tonight's galas

- The Lucky Ones, 6:30 p.m.
- Fifty Dead Men Walking, 9:30 p.m.

Paris Hilton, left, and Paris, Not France director Adria Petty.

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metro Do it daily.

NFL

Regina-born punter Jon Ryan agreed to terms with the Seattle Seahawks yesterday, a week after being released by the Green Bay Packers. He replaces Ryan Plackemeier, who Seattle drafted in 2006. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sports

Merriman opts for surgery

Star outside linebacker Shawne Merriman, left, pulled the plug on his 2008 season yesterday when he told the San Diego Chargers he'll have surgery on the two torn ligaments in his left knee. The loss of Merriman, whose hard hits earned him the nickname "Lights Out," is a big one for a team that has Super Bowl expectations. The Associated Press

EDITOR: JONATHAN P. KUEHLEIN, SPORTS@METRONEWS.CA

Bombers, Tiger-Cats mix up deal

CFL The Winnipeg Blue Bombers found a way to get linebacker Zeke Moreno from the Hamilton Tiger-Cats without trading away defensive end Tom Canada.

The teams completed a trade yesterday that saw Moreno sent to Winnipeg for a first-round pick in next year's draft and the rights to lineman Corey Mace, who's on the Buffalo Bills' practice roster.

Mace

The Bombers also get a conditional third-round draft pick in 2009 should Mace sign with Hamilton.

Canada, the Bombers' outstanding defensive player last year, was initially headed to Hamilton for Moreno until he went to hospital Monday night for tests that revealed an enlarged spleen.

That sent both teams back to the drawing board and Canada back in hospital for further tests.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Argos bring back 'The Don'

Matthews overcomes anxiety woes to make return as CFL head coach

The Don is back. Don Matthews, the winningest coach in CFL history who abruptly retired in 2006 due to anxiety issues, returned for a third stint with the Toronto Argonauts yesterday. He takes over from Rich Stubler, who was fired after posing a dismal 4-6 record as a rookie head coach.

"The reason why I'm here, for whatever reason the players aren't playing to their potential," Matthews told a jam-packed news conference. "My job is to get the players to play better."

Matthews' contract details weren't divulged.

After establishing himself as one of the CFL's top defensive co-ordinators, Stubler became Argos head coach once Mike "Pinball" Clemons took over as the club's chief executive officer following the '07 season.

But Stubler's decision to go with both Kerry Joseph and Michael Bishop at quarterback backfired and split the locker-room. And he also rubbed a lot of Argonauts personnel the wrong way with a direct, sometimes arrogant attitude unbecoming of a rookie head coach whose football team was languishing.

5 The number of Grey Cup rings Don Matthews has earned as a CFL head coach, including 1996-97 with the Argonauts. He has five more as defensive co-ordinator of the Edmonton Eskimos. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

The decision to fire Stubler wasn't surprising as speculation had been swirling for two weeks that he was on thin ice. But replacing him with Matthews, 69, a larger-than-life figure who loves the spotlight, was stunning, especially when Matthews had been out of football since resigning suddenly as the Montreal Alouettes head coach in October 2006.

Yet, it didn't take long to get Matthews back to Toronto. He said he had just three days of talks with the club before deciding to return.

A candid Matthews said he began experiencing anxiety problems while in Montreal. Medication didn't help and the condition worsened to the point where Matthews dreaded going on to the field.

"It got debilitating for me," Matthews said. "I didn't want to leave the house and whenever I did, I wanted to get back."

Matthews got the upper hand on his anxiety issues thanks to a new medication and is very upbeat about returning to coaching.

"I missed the sidelines, the competition. There's a thrill you can't get anywhere else."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

COLIN McCONNELL/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Don Matthews, the CFL's all-time leader in coaching victories with 231, was all smiles as he was re-introduced to the media yesterday as the new head coach of the Argonauts.

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TUES., SEPT. 30
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NHL
Chris Chelios thinks he has at least one more season left in his 46-year-old legs. The veteran defenceman, right, who appeared in 69 regular-season games last season, scoring three goals and 12 points, signed a one-year contract with the Detroit Red Wings yesterday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Huot, Reid nab bronzes in Beijing

PARALYMPICS Swimmer Benoit Huot and track athlete Stefanie Reid each won bronze medals for Canada yesterday at the Paralympic Games.

Huot

Huot, from Montreal, was third in the men's 100-metre freestyle in the S10 disability category with a time of 54.26 seconds.

Reid, from Windsor, Ont., overcame a self-described disappointing performance in the long jump to finish third in the women's amputee 200 metres (T44 class) with a Canadian-record time of 28.85 seconds.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

YorkReport
Marty York

Will return...

Blue Jays continue unlikely playoff run

T.O. sweeps double dip to win 10th straight

Blue Jays 3 White Sox 1

Blue Jays 8 White Sox 2

The Blue Jays are on such a good run they think they can make the playoffs.

A.J. Burnett allowed one hit in seven innings and the Blue Jays beat the Chicago White Sox 3-1 in the opener of yesterday's day-night doubleheader. Then they pounded the White Sox 8-2 in the night cap to extend their winning streak to 10 games.

Toronto is on its longest winning streak since taking a franchise-record 11 in a row in from Aug. 27-Sept. 7, 1998, according to the Elias Sports Bureau.

"I hope it doesn't stop," manager Cito Gaston said. "I hope we keep rolling. It's a good streak. Hey, win as many as we can before it stops." THE CANADIAN PRESS

CHARLES REX ARBOGAST/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Blue Jays infielder Joe Inglett doubles up White Sox baserunner Jermaine Dye at second and Jim Thome, not seen, at first to end a threat during the eighth inning yesterday afternoon in Chicago.

SCOREBOARD

MLB

AMERICAN LEAGUE

EAST DIVISION

	W	L	PCT	GB
Tampa Bay	85	57	.599	—
w-Boston	85	58	.594	½
Toronto	78	66	.542	8
N.Y. Yankees	76	68	.528	10
Baltimore	64	78	.451	21

CENTRAL DIVISION

	W	L	PCT	GB
Chicago Sox	80	64	.556	—
Minnesota	78	65	.545	1½
Cleveland	69	73	.486	10
Detroit	70	75	.483	10½
Kansas City	61	81	.430	19

WEST DIVISION

	W	L	PCT	GB
L.A. Angels	87	56	.608	—
Texas	70	74	.486	17½
Oakland	66	78	.458	21½
Seattle	56	86	.394	30½

NATIONAL LEAGUE

EAST DIVISION

	W	L	PCT	GB
N.Y. Mets	80	63	.559	—
Philadelphia	79	65	.549	1½
Florida	72	72	.500	8½
Atlanta	62	82	.431	18½
Washington	56	88	.389	24½

CENTRAL DIVISION

	W	L	PCT	GB
Chicago Cubs	86	57	.601	—
w-Milwaukee	82	62	.569	4½
St. Louis	77	66	.538	9
Houston	77	67	.535	9½
Cincinnati	65	79	.453	21½
Pittsburgh	60	83	.420	26

WEST DIVISION

	W	L	PCT	GB
L.A. Dodgers	73	71	.507	—
Arizona	71	72	.497	1½
Colorado	67	77	.465	6
San Francisco	63	80	.441	9½
San Diego	56	88	.389	17

(w — teams currently holding wild-card spots)

LAST NIGHT'S RESULTS

AMERICAN LEAGUE
TORONTO 3 Chicago Sox 1 (Gm 1)
TORONTO 8 Chicago Sox 2 (Gm 2)
Oakland 3 Detroit 2
Tampa Bay at Boston
Cleveland at Baltimore
Kansas City at Minnesota
N.Y. Yankees at L.A. Angels
Texas at Seattle

NATIONAL LEAGUE
Florida at Philadelphia
Colorado at Atlanta
Washington at N.Y. Mets
Cincinnati at Milwaukee
Pittsburgh at Houston
Chicago Cubs at St. Louis
L.A. Dodgers at San Diego
Arizona at San Francisco

TODAY'S GAMES

AMERICAN LEAGUE
Oakland at Detroit, 1:05
N.Y. Yankees at L.A. Angels, 3:35
Texas at Seattle, 4:40
Tampa Bay at Boston, 7:05
Cleveland at Baltimore, 7:05
Kansas City at Minnesota, 8:10
TORONTO at Chicago W. Sox, 8:11

NATIONAL LEAGUE
Cincinnati at Milwaukee, 2:05
Arizona at San Francisco, 3:35
Florida at Philadelphia, 4:05
Colorado at Atlanta, 7:10
Washington at N.Y. Mets, 7:10
Pittsburgh at Houston, 8:05
Chicago Cubs at St. Louis, 8:15
L.A. Dodgers at San Diego, 10:05

AL BATTING LEADERS

Name, team	AB	R	H	AVG
Pedroia Bos	589	111	193	.328
Bradley Tex	379	74	124	.327
Mauer Min	463	87	151	.326
Ordonez Det	495	66	160	.323
Kinsler Tex	518	102	165	.319
Huff Bal	532	92	168	.316
Youkilis Bos	483	83	152	.315
Morneau Min	542	88	168	.310
Suzuki Sea	599	89	185	.309
Rodriguez NYY	461	97	142	.308

NL BATTING LEADERS

Name, team	AB	R	H	AVG
Pujols StL	462	88	166	.359
Jones Atl	408	73	146	.358
Berkman Hou	500	106	164	.328
Holliday Col	493	99	160	.325
Lee Hou	436	61	137	.314
Winn SF	519	78	162	.312
Theriot ChiC	523	76	162	.310
Guzman Wash	525	70	163	.310
Molina StL	437	37	134	.307
Schumaker StL	478	79	146	.305
Hudson Ariz	407	54	124	.305

CFL

EAST DIVISION

	W	L	T	PTS
Montreal	7	3	0	14
TORONTO	4	6	0	8
Winnipeg	2	8	0	4
Hamilton	2	8	0	4

WEST DIVISION

	W	L	T	PTS
Saskatchewan	8	2	0	16
Edmonton	6	4	0	12
Calgary	6	4	0	12
B.C.	5	5	0	10

WEEK 12
FRIDAY'S GAMES
Winnipeg at **TORONTO**, 7
Montreal at Calgary, 10
SATURDAY'S GAMES
Hamilton at Edmonton, 7
Saskatchewan at B.C., 10

NFL

WEEK 1
MONDAY'S LATE RESULT
Denver 41 Oakland 14
WEEK 2
SUNDAY'S GAMES
Chicago at Carolina, 1
Tennessee at Cincinnati, 1
Green Bay at Detroit, 1
Buffalo at Jacksonville, 1
Oakland at Kansas City, 1
Indianapolis at Minnesota, 1
N.Y. Giants at St. Louis, 1
New Orleans at Washington, 1
San Francisco at Seattle, 4:05
Atlanta at Tampa Bay, 4:05
Miami at Arizona, 4:15
San Diego at Denver, 4:15
Baltimore at Houston, 4:15
New England at N.Y. Jets, 4:15
Pittsburgh at Cleveland, 8:15
MONDAY'S GAME
Philadelphia at Dallas, 8:30

SOCCER

GAMES FEATURING TORONTO FC:
SATURDAY'S GAME
Columbus at **TORONTO**, 3:30

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NBA

Kobe Bryant will not have surgery on his right pinkie because recovery would take too long. The L.A. Lakers star, left, has played with damaged ligaments in the finger since February, but said yesterday that he won't have surgery after seeking opinions from hand specialists. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ex-UFC champ found dead

MMA Former UFC champion Evan Tanner has been found dead on a California camping trip. He was 37.

Tanner's body was found about five kilometres from his campsite in a remote area of the Palo Verdes Mountains, local police said. A preliminary coroner's report suggested the one-time Ultimate Fighting Championship middleweight champ's death was heat-related. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Armstrong confirms return to Tour

Lance Armstrong is ready to swear off the chips and salsa, climb back on the bike and win an eighth Tour de France.

Three years after retiring, the 36-year-old says he'll return to competition and the Tour de France in 2009, giving up relaxed days of a few beers and Tex-Mex food for a self-described monk's life of disciplined training and punishing races.

In a formal statement, Armstrong called his comeback an attempt to raise global awareness in his fight against cancer. Just as likely, it's also about his relentless desire to compete and win, especially at the Tour, the race he dominated with a record seven titles from 1999-2005.

Citing the slow pace of last year's Tour and the rush from last month's Leadville 100 race, Armstrong decided it was time to return.

Armstrong

"This kind of obscure bike race totally kickstarted my engine," he told Vanity Fair in an exclusive interview, referring to the 161-kilometre mountain bike race through the Colorado Rockies. "I'm going to try and win an eighth Tour de France."

Armstrong's riveting victories over cancer and opponents on the bike, his work for cancer awareness and his gossip-page romances have made him a modern-day American icon.

Professional cycling and particularly the Tour have missed Armstrong's star power, even though skeptics refused to believe he could win without the help of illegal performance-enhancing drugs.

This time, Armstrong is determined to silence the doubters and try to prove he really is clean.

He's even hired a video crew to chronicle his training, as well as his drug tests, for a possible documentary. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Travel

Heathrow T5 is back on track

British Airways' intercontinental flights to London will begin using Heathrow's spectacular new Terminal 5 this month and next. The transfer from Terminal 4 was to occur in April, but was put off after T5's opening proved truly chaotic, what with staff shortages; long, long lines at check-in; and hundreds of cancelled and delayed flights. British Airways officials say T5 is operating smoothly now. AVIATION.COM

TRAVELDESK@METRONEWS.CA

Is Tokyo tops for gastronomy?

Michelin stars shine on the city, but some don't believe the hype

Paris might still be good if you've got a big wad of cash and want the best of the best. But Tokyo is really where it's at food-wise, at least according to the French people who keep track of these things.

When the venerable Michelin Guide came out with its first Tokyo edition, it was so full of praise that it almost read like a press release for the Japan Restaurant Association. Its conclusion — Tokyo is the culinary capital of the world.

But is it, really? Here's a Michelin morsel: "Tokyo is a shining star in the world of cuisine," Jean-Luc Naret, the guide's director, said shortly after its Tokyo edition came out last November. "We found the city's restaurants to be excellent, featuring the best ingredients, culinary talents and a tradition passed on from generation to generation and refined by today's chefs."

Michelin's Tokyo guide awarded a whopping 191 stars to 150 restaurants in the Japanese capital, the most number of stars awarded in any city. Previously, Paris had the most stars, at 65.

Eight restaurants in Tokyo — three French, two sushi bars and three traditional Japanese — received Michelin's highest three-star rating.

Paris can still claim to have the most top-rated restaurants — with 10. New York has just three.

The announcement was a godsend for Japan, which has been trying for years to put a shine on a tourist industry muted by the country's notoriously high prices and a powerful line-up of rival attractions just beyond its shores — such as the fabled shopping districts of Hong Kong, the beaches of Thailand, and the rapid rise of Shanghai as one of Asia's most interesting cityscapes.

In this file photo, a girl points at one of the dishes on a signboard on the side of a Tokyo restaurant. Paris might still be good if you've got a big wad of cash and want the best of the best. But Tokyo is really where it's at food-wise, at least according to the venerable Michelin Guide.

"I don't think it's helpful to make that kind of statement. Tokyo has the best Japanese food in the world. But it is nowhere near as diverse as other cities."
Tim Zagat

Treated as front-page news and trumpeted on TV broadcasts, Michelin's glowing review was also seen as confirmation of the value of something that the Japanese have long seen as a source of national pride — their mastery of sushi, raw fish and all the other famously subtle elements of Japan's indigenous cuisine. The guide sold 120,000 copies in just three days.

It was a hard-won honour for Tokyo. A team of three undercover European and two Japanese inspectors spent a year and a half visiting 1,500 of Tokyo's estimated 160,000 restaurants to decide on the ratings, according to Michelin. The guidebook rates restaurants on excellence in cooking, service, decor and upkeep.

But the Michelin hype has met with a great deal of skepticism — especially from other reviewers.

One particularly controversial pick was a sushi bar that — though on just about everybody's list for quality — is located in a basement, is cramped even by Tokyo standards and shares its restroom with other tenants. Ambience, it would seem, is pretty subjective.

Some of Michelin's competitors say there are bigger problems with Michelin's whole premise. Why, for example, are so many French restaurants at the top of the Tokyo list? Why no Chinese, no Italian, no palaces of tofu?

"There are a lot of great cities in the world," Tim Zagat, founder of the Zagat guides, told The Associated Press. "Tokyo is an exciting place to eat. But Paris is an exciting place to eat. So is Rome."

The question, he says, is whether Tokyo is better.

"I don't think it is helpful to make that kind of statement," Zagat said. "Tokyo has the best Japanese food in the world. But it is nowhere near as diverse as other cities."

There is no doubt Tokyo — the land of the Iron Chef — has an exceptionally well-developed restaurant scene.

Zagat said the reasons are many, not least of which being the fact that the Japanese like good food, they have money to spend on it and their native cuisine is highly refined and places a very strong emphasis on tradition, freshness and the natural balance of ingredients.

Another reason, however, is that dining in is often not an option, especially for business-related meals. Homes continue to be relatively small and cramped and getting there often involves a long commute for all. Thus, restaurants have thrived, from the neighbourhood bar to whole areas of town that are built around after-hours entertaining. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SHIZUO KAMBAYASHI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A couple stand in front of a Tokyo restaurant during lunch hour.

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Flight memorial
A new permanent memorial park has been built to honour victims of the Sept. 11 attack on the Pentagon. The memorial is located on its grounds in Arlington, Va., and consists of 184 memorial units in a field, one inscribed to each victim. METRO NEWS SERVICES

The hottest beach getaways

Sand and surf destinations don't get more romantic

HERBERT YPMA
for Metro World News

Finding a romantic beach paradise doesn't have to break the bank. Following are the best spots in the world for the two of you to languish on the sand.

Ravesi's
Bondai Beach, Australia

Bang on Bondai Beach, Ravesi's is synonymous with the new Australia: Slick, sophisticated, sexy and with more than enough restaurants, bars and cafés to sustain a Mediterranean lifestyle.

Bondai today is a long way from the fish-and-chip shop, meat-pie, and surf-and-lifesaving-club mentality of a clichéd and forgotten Oz. Surf by day, party by night, without ever having to leave this crescent-shaped icon that is Australia's hottest hangout.

Le Dune
Sardinia, Italy

You would never expect to find a beach like this on the Mediterranean; South Africa, Australia, New Zealand for sure, but not in Sardinia. Stranded on an immense stretch of undulating hills of sand, Le Dune is not only wild but also totally isolated.

It's the complete opposite of the chichi over-cultivated jet-set scene of the Costa Smeralda in the more famous north. There is nothing to do here but swim in the surf and take long walks in the vast dunes that surround the hotel.

Maison Du Bassin
Cap Ferret, France

A gem on France's lower west coast, the idyllic Maison Du Bassin is a stone's throw from some of the best beaches in France. This is a beach cabin that became a hotel and restaurant when it grew up; a pastel-coloured, wooden-panelled, wicker-furnitured place that oozes a weather-beaten charm like no other.

The food is fabulous, and best of all it has a location that is confusing enough to keep most foreign tourists away. It is in Cap Ferret, France's more stylish version of Cape Cod, often confused with, but nothing like, Cap Ferrat.

100% Fun
Tarifa, Spain

This hotel delivers exactly what it says on the can. It's situated on the vast and completely unspoiled beach of Tarifa, which is Southern Spain's chalk to the Costa Del Sol's cheese.

Instead of British crowds and Irish pubs you get empty beaches and real surfers. The scene is vintage California in terms of the weather and lifestyle, with an exotic twist owing to the area's Moorish roots.

HERBERT YPMA/SHOOTFROMTHEHIP.COM

Sardinia's Le Dune offers an immense stretch of undulating hills of sand — ideal for long, romantic walks.

Muang Kulaypan
Koh Samui, Thailand

The danger with Thailand's booming tourism is that many hotels are starting to look the same. It's the villa-with-a-deck syndrome. Few places have a style entirely their own, and therein lies the charm of Muang Kulaypan, one of the most authentic and romantic places on a Thai beach. Japanese-style minimal rooms are successfully jumbled with traditional Thai wooden pavilions on the beach that serve as individual dining settings for the hotel's thoroughly convincing Thai cuisine.

Carducci 76
Cattolica, Italy

When you arrive in Cattolica on Italy's Rimini coast, you will die. It is awful and you will ask yourself, "What am I doing here?" But fret not, because in amongst all the schlock is a little oasis of taste, a beach-side paradise that you will not have to leave until it's time to go. Sometimes turning inward to shelter in sumptuous elegance can be the most romantic thing to do.

Just pretend the rest of the world does not exist, and enjoy the attention to detail and refinement that is not unexpected from the family of Alberta Ferretti.

Read more on page 33

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Must-sees for the small set

You've probably heard of the bestselling travel book by Patricia Schultz called 1,000 Places to See Before You Die. Travel and Leisure is offering a shorter list geared to pint-size travellers: 10 places to see before you're 10. The list is in the online September issue and in some print editions. *See* travelandleisure.com/family. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

HERBERT YPMA/SHOOTFROMTHEHIP.COM

Left, Sunset Beach in The Hamptons. Right, Ravesi's on Australia's Bondai Beach.

Continued from page 32 ››

Sunset Beach
The Hamptons, USA

In a New York summer, the Hamptons is certainly a scene, but not everyone wants to be part of it. Instead of queuing for the privilege of overpaying outrageously for a deli sandwich in East Hampton, you could opt for the natural beauty and unspoiled charm of Shelter Island. This is America as it used to be — innocent, unspoiled, wholesome — where the drugstore even serves pancakes for breakfast.

And in one tiny corner of the island, complete with its own sandy beach, is André Balazs's Sunset Beach; a '50s-era American motel that has been given a new lease on life without having been tarted up beyond recognition. André is a master of leaving good things alone, and the hotel has a loyal following of urbanites who recognize the value of elegant simplicity.

Taru Villas
Bentota, Sri Lanka

Fly to Colombo, jump in a cab, bounce around in the back for two or three hours, and you will have arrived at Taru Villas (unless traffic is really bad and then you'd still be in Colombo). Taru is a small complex of stylish bungalows a stone's throw from one of Sri Lanka's best beaches.

It is quiet, beautiful, private, sensuous and affordable. Stay a month, write a book, enjoy a different pace of life — what could be more romantic?

Waka Nusa
Lembongan, Bali

Not many people have heard of Lembongan, a tiny island off the coast of Bali that is blessed with clear waters, great surf and plenty of fish — like most of Bali used to be. If you long for a romantic escape in a barefoot, thatched-hut-on-the-sand, only-eating-fish-just-caught-off-the-beach type of way, then this is the place for you.

Fort Tiracol, Goa, India

The romance of Goa is not just the palm-fringed beaches but also its Portuguese heritage.

For me there is no better example of this than Tiracol, an old Portuguese fort built on a headland guarding an inland waterway. Since it was converted to a hotel half a decade ago, guests not only get a substantial chunk of the fort as accommodation, but the location provides the most ideal scenario for breathtaking sunrise breakfasts and romantic early evenings.

It's also unusually isolated and uncrowded for India. You can take the fort's speedboat for a whirl across the lagoon, and enjoy a picnic under a palm without anybody offering to sell you anything.

• Herbert Ypma is the author and photographer of Hip Hotels, a series of essential guide books to stylish and special places to stay. For more inspiring ideas, visit hiphotels.com.

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www.ttc.ca 416-393-INFO

Go green

If you're looking for information on sustainable travel, Expedia.ca has gathered its green options under expedia.ca/green. You'll find details on eco-friendly hotels and reducing your carbon footprint, as well as tips for responsible travel. METRO NEWS SERVICES

'Flashpackers' trek with style

Champagne tastes and loads of hi-tech gear distinguish this crowd

Many who have done it will tell you that backpacking is the only way to see the world. No fixed route or big budget required. About all you need is a passport, a toothbrush and a sense of adventure.

But while sleeping in crowded hostels and strapping all your possessions to your back is heaven for some, there's another breed of backpacker who's looking for luxury.

Like their penny-pinching cousins, these travellers go from one exotic destination to the next with no itinerary or tour operator to guide them, toting laptops and other high-tech gear.

"Flashpackers," as they have been dubbed because they backpack with flash or style, are generally older than the average student backpacker and thus have the funds to satisfy their champagne tastes.

Curtis Foreman, 33, always wanted to see the world, but was tied to his day job at an Internet marketing company in Vancouver.

But all that changed six months ago when Foreman and his wife Lindsie, 33, quit their jobs, rented out their condo and embarked on a yearlong flashpack around the world.

"We wanted to get out and see the world before we settle down and have kids," he said from his hotel room in Singapore.

> **"We're a little less focused on drinking (than) some backpackers. We're more focused on experiencing the place and culture, rather than partying."**
> Curtis Foreman

The couple's adventures have included mountain climbing in Bali and snorkelling off the coast of Thailand. They've also been to Australia.

And while they've encountered many young backpackers on their travels, they've managed to avoid run-down hostels, rickety buses and group accommodations.

"We're a little less focused on drinking like some backpackers. We're more focused on experiencing the place and culture, rather than partying," Foreman said.

His travel motto is "Pack light and carry a flash drive."

And as a self-described "web geek," Foreman filled his backpack with two laptops, a cellphone, microphone, headphones, more USB cables than he can count and six heavy-duty locks.

The technology has allowed him to do a bit of work along the way and keep in touch with friends and family in Canada through his blog called Flashpacking Life.

Many others are staying wired throughout their journey. A 2008 survey by Hostelworld.com, an online reservation service for backpackers, found that 71 per cent carried an MP3 player or iPod and 35 per cent brought their laptop.

Susie Honeyman, a travel agent with Flight Centre, had never heard the term "flashpacker" but knows the type. Honeyman, who specializes in round-the-world tickets, said she is planning more extravagant and lengthy vacations for an older generation.

"We're seeing a lot more people with complicated itineraries who want a bit more luxury and are willing to spend more money," she said.

Some hostels are starting to offer more upscale accommodations, with features like access to wireless Internet, to meet the needs of the tech-savvy traveller.

Melissa Rambaud-Chanoz, a master's student at Ceram Business School in France who wrote her thesis on the flashpacking phenomenon, said this new trend doesn't mean the end of low-budget, free-spirited travel.

"Backpackers will still exist," she said. "It's not necessarily the future of backpacking, because it's just a different version of it. It's still the same adventure but with more security and comfort."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

HANDOUT/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Curtis Foreman and his wife Lindsie Tomlinson-Foreman use their laptops at a cafe in Paris. "Flashpackers," as they have been dubbed because they backpack with flash or style, are generally older than the average student backpacker and thus have the funds to satisfy their champagne tastes.

Airfares

Fort Lauderdale	Travel Sep 20-Sep 27/ts	**$49** + taxes & fees $130
Montego Bay	Travel Sep 19-Sep 26/wg	**$95** + taxes & fees $316
Calgary	Travel Sep 24-Oct 1/wg	**$149** + taxes & fees $172
Athens	Travel Sep 14-Sep 22/ts	**$599** + taxes & fees $395
Tokyo	Travel Oct 8-Oct 15/ac	**$698** + taxes & fees $509
Tel Aviv	Travel Oct 13-Oct 28/9w	**$859** + taxes & fees $459
Auckland	Travel Oct 23-Nov 6/cx	**$1799** + taxes & fees $561

Exotic Holidays

Rio de Janeiro — **$1115**
Augostos Copacabana + taxes & fees $541
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Egypt — **$1195**
Egyptian Family Adventure + local payment of $200USD
INCLUDES a 13-day small group tour geared towards creating a unique family experience. From Cairo visit pyramids, temples, a camel ride safari and a horse drawn carriage ride.

Tokyo & Mt Fuji — **$1369**
Princess Garden + taxes & fees $509
INCLUDES Includes roundtrip airfare, 7 nights 3-star accommodation in Tokyo and a Mt Fuji & Hakone full day tour. Departs Oct 20/inf/ac. **ADD** a 7-day Japan Rail pass from $284.

Cruise Holidays

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South America — **$979**
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INCLUDES 14 nights aboard *Celebrity Infinity*. Sails from Fort Lauderdale to Chile and visits Colombia, Panamal Canal, Ecuador and Peru. Sails Dec 7.

European Holidays

Amsterdam — **$358**
Ibis Westcorner + taxes & fees $444
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London — **$502**
President Hotel + taxes & fees $448
INCLUDES roundtrip airfare and your first 2 nights 3-star accommodation. Departs Oct 16/vat/ts. **ADD** a twirl on the London Eye observation wheel for $32.

Paris — **$567**
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INCLUDES roundtrip airfare and your first 2 nights 3-star accommodation in the Latin Quarter. Departs Oct 9/vat/ts.

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B.B. King museum

A new $14-million US museum is opening to honour music legend B.B. King. The B.B. King Museum & Delta Interpretive Center, scheduled to open Sept. 13 with King in attendance, is located in Indianola, Miss. See bbkingmuseum.org. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Going camping? Don't watch Deliverance

Much of the pleasure of a camping trip is in the preparation, says Kevin Callan, author of the new book Wilderness Pleasures (Boston Mills Press).

"Most campers take months to prepare, researching the route, collecting the proper gear, asking the right people to come along," writes Callan, who lives in Peterborough.

He says the planning stage can even turn out to be better than the actual trip. "The letdown is inevitable. It rains continuously; your partner is a jerk the entire time; the bugs are biting; basically, the trip doesn't end up being at all like what you had originally imagined."

To help get in the mood before a trip, Callan provides a list of "inspirational movies" to watch.

They include Jeremiah Johnson (about a man's quest for life as a hermit in the wilderness); The Life and Times of Grizzly Adams (a trapper befriends a grizzly bear cub); Never Cry Wolf (a biologist learns about the benefits of wolves); and Without a Paddle (three men go on a camping trip to fulfil a childhood promise).

He also lists films to avoid, including Man in the Wilderness (a trapper gets mauled by a grizzly bear); Deliverance (rednecks rape a businessman while he and his buddies are on a canoe trip); Redneck Zombies ("chemical waste dumped in the woods gets mixed up with a redneck's moonshine"); and The River Wild (a family on a rafting trip are forced to raft at gunpoint after meeting two armed thugs).

THE CANADIAN PRESS

JULIA DIMON/FOR METRO CANADA

Wednesday mass at the Yoido Full Gospel Church near Seoul.

Encountering massive faith in South Korea

TheTravelJunkie

According to the Guinness Book of World Records, the largest Christian congregation in the world is not located where you might expect it to be.

Instead of calling the southern U.S. home, the Yoido Full Gospel Church — which boasts an astonishing 750,000-plus worshippers — can be found just 20 minutes outside Seoul, South Korea.

Though the country is predominantly Buddhist, there is indeed a powerful Christian contingent. Take one look at the exterior of the Yoido Full Gospel Church and you'll have an idea of its scale.

In fact, it's hard to quell the thought that this red-brick dome topped with a giant cross looks like a stadium, and that I'm headed to a concert rather than a Wednesday morning religious service. Right on cue, a crowd of elderly women move past me in a mad dash to get a good seat.

It seems that despite the size of the venue, the pews fill up quickly, so it's best to come early.

In the guts of the building, three floors of seats are placed in a semi-circle facing the stage. All eyes are on a joyous choir, singing and swaying to synthesized music. The church is devoid of stained-glass windows or religious icons, but does have several large screens above the stage and cameramen panning across the crowd.

The church has a BYOB policy — bring your own bible. But it does provide headphones, which I plug into a little black box offering English, Japanese, Chinese, Spanish, French, Russian, Indonesian and Arabic translations. With patience, I'm able to understand a bit of what retired Rev. David Yonggi Cho is saying.

"Our neighbours in North Korea are suffering. We must care about social problems. They are our brothers, sisters and neighbours. Love your neighbours and love the church with your soul, body and mind," he preaches. Though 72 years old, his voice echoes through the church. The crowd breathes a collective Amen.

Julia's tips

- Services at Yoido Full Gospel Church are offered three times on Wednesdays and seven times on Sundays. Visit english.fgtv.com.

Julia Dimon is co-host of Word Travels, airing on OLN, and editor of thetraveljunkie.ca.

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Good Vibe-rations

Practicality takes centre stage for Pontiac compact

MICHAEL BANOVSKY
for Metro Canada

If the Pontiac Vibe was an appetizer, it would be the California Roll – delicious sushi on the inside and yet easy to handle and appealing on the outside.

While underneath the Vibe utilizes a Toyota platform and engines, the exterior is modern Americana.

The Vibe is a product of a General Motors and Toyota alliance. Its sister car is the Toyota Matrix. While underneath the Vibe utilizes a Toyota platform and engines, the exterior is modern Americana.

There are small differences between the two content-wise — for instance, a Monsoon stereo is only available on the Vibe (and a JBL stereo is exclusive to the Matrix) — but from the driver's seat you would be hard-pressed to notice a different driving experience.

Probably the most popular variant will be the Vibe with all-wheel drive, as its larger engine (2.4-litre 4-cylinder with 158 horsepower) and plastic-lined rear cargo area should make it the most practical for any environment.

From an enthusiast's standpoint, however, I wonder how long it will take a Pontiac engineer to install a turbocharged Ecotec engine into the Vibe.

There are cubby holes everywhere, controls fall easily to hand, and the driving position seems to fit a wide range of body types.

Inside, again, practicality takes centre stage. A handy-dandy 115-volt (100W) dash-mounted plug means you'll no longer have to buy separate car chargers for your electronic gizmos. There are cubby holes everywhere, controls fall easily to hand, and the driving position seems to fit a wide range of body types.

Now the biggest difference between the Vibe and Matrix is on price: The Vibe starts at $15,995; the Matrix at $15,705. Top-range models are different altogether: The Vibe GT starts at $24,995, the Matrix XRS at $25,220. Transaction prices, though, favour the ever-eager-to-deal Pontiac salespeople – plus any deals the General has cooked up.

So the Vibe is basically a Toyota. I think for North America, re-skinning a winning design to attract universal appeal is an admirable strategy. I'm sure the attractive Vibe will sell in spades.

Just keep hoping for a clearance sale at your local dealer.

2009 Pontiac Vibe

Type: Compact
Price: $15,995
Engine: 2.4-litre 4-cylinder
HP: 158 horsepower

Highlights

- All-wheel drive
- Practical interior
- Affordable pricing

Insurance myths debunked

When it comes to auto insurance, many Canadians are not sure what's fact or fiction. To help you better understand auto insurance, RBC Insurance debunks the top five auto insurance myths.

1. The colour of my car affects my insurance premium.

Many factors determine premiums. The colour of your vehicle is not one of them.

2. If I use my car for work and have an accident, my employer's insurance will cover it.

Your employer may reimburse you for mileage, but your own insurance provides coverage in case of an accident. If you use your vehicle for work, you should be advising your agent or broker of this business use.

3. Parking tickets increase insurance premiums.

Parking tickets do not affect insurance premiums. But a licence suspension from unpaid fines can result in higher premiums.

4. If my friend borrows my car and has an accident, their insurance will pay for damages.

If you lend your car, you lend your insurance. Any claims will be made under your policy, even if you were not involved in the accident.

5. Auto insurance companies can charge what they want.

Auto insurance is subject to significant regulatory requirements. Insurance companies must submit their automobile insurance rates to government agencies for approval.

NEWS CANADA

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Shattering stereotypes

High-performing Lexus IS F a sports monster that's hard to resist

JOE KNYCHA
for Metro Canada

The Lexus IS F is possibly the first Lexus of any of the brand's stripe to be instantly recognized as a serious, take-no-prisoners sports car.

The models before it — the IS 250 and IS 350 — are plenty sporty in their own right, but can't come close to the F for sheer driving exhilaration and outright raw performance.

This chest-thumping, bellowing beast puts the "high" in performance. It seats five in leather-wrapped, hand-stitched comfort and will carry most of their luggage, too.

And if that doesn't get your attention, just listen to the thing in full song as it rips ever so precisely through the eight gears in its "Sport Direct Shift" automatic transmission.

It sounds so cool that Lexus has built an advertising campaign around the IS F's unique engine/exhaust sounds.

The F takes the IS series design, bulks it up and stomps the road into submission with an all-new 5.2-litre V8 engine that delivers 416 hp at 6,600 rpm and 371 lb-ft of torque at 5,200 revs, to the rear wheels.

The Lexus models before the IS F — the IS 250 and IS 350 — are plenty sporty in their own right, but can't come close to the F for sheer driving exhilaration and outright raw performance.

Based on the LS 460 engine, the F powerplant introduces a new direct and port fuel injection system that combines direct-to-cylinder injection with secondary port injectors, extracting maximum energy from the fuel during high-performance driving conditions, while producing a precise burn to optimize power and efficiency under less strenuous circumstances.

The result, said Glenn Alkema of the Lexus Academy, "is maximum efficiency, reduced emissions and best-in-class fuel economy."

Visual clues that allude to its athleticism are found everywhere, from the redesigned front grille and fascia, bulging hood, flared fenders, huge Brembo brakes front and rear, lowered body and vertically stacked, twin exhaust ports sticking out the back, and from which emanate those dulcet and intoxicating sounds.

IS F chief designer Yukihiko Yaguchi, who was also responsible for the original IS-series Lexi, went beyond Toyota's usual development parameters to include longtime partner Yamaha in bringing about the engine characteristics that the IS F would require. Yamaha's top Formula One engineer, Takaaki Kimura, was responsible for most of its development, achieving tremendous smoothness, amazing torque almost from idle and a willingness to rev that belies its 5.2-litre displacement.

With a top speed of 270 km/h (electronically limited), a zero-100 km/h time of 4.8 seconds and a quarter-mile time of 13 seconds flat, this car is expected to broaden the Lexus appeal to include performance-driving enthusiasts who would not otherwise consider the brand.

Steering is quick and direct, assisted by a calibrated electric power system, with no on-centre vagueness detected; the driver feels well in touch with the road and the car inspires confidence.

The heavy-duty Brembo brakes are enhanced by anti-lock braking with electronic brakeforce distribution and brake assist.

Additional features that aid in the IS F's performance include the sport-tuned vehicle dynamics integrated management (VDIM) system, electronic vehicle stability and traction control which can be fully disengaged by the driver.

Seldom, if ever, has so much power, technology, style, build quality and sheer excitement been available to buyers in the IS F's price range.

2009 Lexus IS F

Type: Sedan
Price: $64,000
Engine: V8, DOHC, 5.2L
HP: 416 @ 6,600
Torque: 371 @ 5,200

Highlights

- Athletic styling
- Sport performance appeal
- Tremendous smoothness
- Unique exhaust system sounds

Two sides to buying new or used cars

New or used — that's the question that is constantly put to the pros. Consider these tips if you decide to go the route of purchasing.

Market Favours New

Given the strong Canadian dollar, now is a great time to buy a new car, according to Chartered Accountant Charles Seguin, president, Triaveluin Retail Advisors in Aurora, Ont.

"The market is changing daily, with incentives including low or even no interest, revamped base-price strategies and competitive dealer reductions. Canadian cars will always be more expensive than U.S. cars due to environmental and safety rules, but the old price differential has been greatly reduced on most models."

Used Cars?

While used cars have advantages and disadvantages, the main advantage is a better price. "Plus you do not pay GST on a private sale," says Chartered Accountant Anil Chawla, Deloitte & Touche LLP in Mississauga. "Buying a car that is six to nine months old can save on the purchase price — new cars depreciate as much as 30 per cent in the first year.

"While you pay less upfront, your operating and maintenance costs are higher, and many used cars don't have warranties or the newer safety features. You don't know what's under the hood, so ask two key questions: Who has driven it? Has it been in an accident? The vendor should disclose the car's history in writing, especially with a private sale. Also ask to have the repair log showing the car's history, problems and service record."

Green, Safe and Loaded

Seguin says a big advantage of a new car is greater fuel efficiency and emissions control, which is now available on all new cars from small compacts to SUVs.

Add upgraded safety features like air bags and electronic traction control, and a new car starts to justify its cost, especially if you plan to drive it for several years. You'll see few or no repair costs over the first two years.

"Pride of ownership and confidence come with a new car," adds Chawla. "It can be satisfying to know that no one else has driven it."

NEWS CANADA

Expert advice

•If you are buying a used car, Charles Seguin of Triaveluin Retail Advisors recommends using either a car dealer with older models on the lot, or a member of the Used Car Dealers Association of Ontario (http://www.ucda.org/).

Topping off car coolant may help

MAINTENANCE It's true that your vehicle's antifreeze/coolant may only need to be changed every two years or so, but that doesn't mean your vehicle doesn't need a top off. If you aren't sure which formula to use, choose a brand that eliminates the guess work. Many of these fluids are compatible with any antifreeze/coolant used in any make or model of import and domestic passenger car or light duty truck on the road today.

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More truck for less

Chrysler announces pricing for '09 Dodge Ram

Chrysler Canada announced new pricing for the 2009 Dodge Ram 1500, giving customers more truck for a lot less money. With an average price reduction of $2,200 along with $2,500 of added equipment, the new Dodge Ram delivers $4,700 of added value versus the model that it replaces.

The 2009 Dodge Ram features three-cab configurations, four trim levels, all-new exterior and interior styling and many segment-first features and best-in-class capabilities.

The 2009 Dodge Ram is available for $25,995 for Regular Cab models, $30,295 for Quad Cab models and $34,190 for Ram Crew 1500 models.

Prices exclude $1,350 for destination. The 2009 Dodge Ram arrives in dealerships this fall.

"The all-new Dodge Ram is simply the best truck at the best value in Canada," says Mark Bosanac, vice-president of marketing, Chrysler Canada.

"With more standard features and a lower MSRP than 2008 models, the 2009 Dodge Ram gives consumers thousands of dollars more in value. Our 2009 Dodge Ram has it all: Head-turning design, class-leading interior amenities, capability for every need, customer convenience features inside and out, built-in craftsmanship and safety for every occupant — all at a great value. And with our new crew-size cab model (Ram Crew 1500), we're now competing in the fastest growing and highest volume part of the light-duty pickup segment."

Muscular look for Mustang pony

Curious about what the 2010 Ford Mustang looks like? Its new pony badge offers a clue. Like the upcoming restyled Mustang, the new pony is more defined, more muscular and sure to catch the eye of Mustang enthusiasts. "It's just a faster-looking steed," says George Saridakis, design manager for the 2010 Mustang.

A stronger, more dynamic pony badge with defined edges and crisper forms in a subtly toned tinted-chrome finish will charge across the grilles of the V-6 and GT versions of the 2010 Mustang. For the first time, a black-chrome version of the Mustang pony badge will be available on the new GT grille.

"We wanted to give the Mustang pony a more realistic feel," says Douglas Gaffka, chief designer for the 2010 Mustang. "We lifted the head to make the pony more proud, tipped the neck into the wind to give it a feeling of greater speed and better balance.

"It's (Mustang logo) more chiselled and more defined and looks more like a wild horse."
Chief designer Douglas Gaffka

"It's more chiselled and more defined and looks more like a wild horse," Gaffka added. "It's more realistic in terms of proportion to an actual Mustang."

Senior designer Rick Howard spent hours researching images of horses and understanding their appearance in natural, wild settings. That effort, along with his personal riding experience, helped bring forward the design of the Mustang pony badge.

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Subaru site drives green makeover

Subaru Canada (SCI) has launched a website dedicated to educating the public about the environmental advantages of its Partial Zero Emission Vehicles — the Legacy PZEV and Outback PZEV Plus.

The site — which can be found at www.subarupzev.ca — takes a humorous approach to explaining the benefits of significantly reduced tailpipe emissions by comparing the Legacy and Outback PZEV models to another environmentally-friendly form of transportation — the pogo stick.

"Subaru decided that an entertaining approach would be appreciated by motorists who would like to be better informed about their choices when it comes to reducing the impact of automobiles on the environment," says Katsuhiro Yokoyama, president and CEO of SCI.

"The Legacy PZEV and Outback PZEV Plus virtually eliminate tailpipe emissions, making them two of the cleanest vehicles on the road today.

"This makes them an especially good choice for people who must commute, for example, but who are trying to reduce their smog-forming emissions."

PZEV models

- 2009 Legacy and Outback PZEV are equipped with a modified version of Subaru's 2.5-litre 4-cylinder SOHC 16-valve horizontally opposed Subaru Boxer that produces 170 hp at 6,000 rpm and 170 lb.-ft. of torque at 4,400 rpm, and uses regular unleaded fuel.

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#Limited time lease offers based on new 2008 Honda models. Lease examples based on new 2008 Civic Sedan DX, model FA1528EX / 2008 Element LX, model YH1738E available through Honda Financial Services on approved credit. £1.9% / 2.9% lease APR for 60 / 48 months. Monthly payment is $198 / $298 with $0 / $4,297.82 down payment or equivalent trade, $1,295 / $1,540 freight and PDI, first monthly payment and $0 / $0 security deposit due at lease inception. Total lease obligation is $13,424.40 / $21,020.06. Taxes, license, insurance and registration are extra. 120,000 / 96,000 kilometre allowance; charge of $0.12/km for excess kilometres. Retailer may lease for less. Retailer order / trade may be necessary. †Limited time financing offers based on new 2008 Honda models. Finance example based on new 2008 Element LX, model YH1738E available through Honda Financial Services on approved credit. ‡MSRP is $25,290 plus $1,540 freight and PDI, financed at 0.9% APR equals $457.47 per month for 60 months. Cost of borrowing is $618.26 for a total obligation of $27,448.26. Taxes, license, insurance and registration are extra. Retailer may sell for less. Retailer order / trade may be necessary. ∑$1,000 Gas Card offer applies only to retail customer purchase, lease or finance agreements for new 2008 Element models concluded, respectively between September 3rd, 2008 and September 30th, 2008. $1,000 Gas Card offer includes GST, PST, HST, QST where applicable. Valid only on purchase, lease or finance agreements concluded at participating Honda retailers. #/£/†/∑Offers valid from September 3rd, 2008 through September 30th, 2008 at participating Honda retailers. Offers subject to change or cancellation without notice. See your Honda retailer for full details. ΩYou may be eligible for the Government of Canada's ecoAUTO Rebate Program. 2008 Civic models with 1.8L engine and manual transmission qualify for a $1,000 rebate. Visit ecoaction.gc.ca for details. *Based on 2008 Fuel Consumption Guide rating published by Natural Resources Canada. These estimates are based on Government of Canada's approved criteria and testing methods. The actual fuel consumption of these vehicles may vary. Refer to the Government of Canada's EnerGuide Fuel Consumption Guide for more information. Based on a 2008 Honda Civic with 1.8L engine and manual transmission / 2008 Element LX 2WD with 2.4L engine and automatic transmission. Visit www.vehicles.gc.ca for more information.

Routan offers bang for your buck

Versatile Volkswagen model has plenty of space for cargo and up to seven riders

Volkswagen Canada has announced the pricing for the new 2009 model-year Routan, an all-new seven-passenger vehicle for the Canadian market. Starting at $27,975, the 2009 Routan becomes the most affordable seven-seat import nameplate van in Canada.

The 2009 Volkswagen Routan will offer Canadians quality performance at only $27,975 starting this fall.

The Routan comes with a four-litre single overhead cam V6 engine with 253 HP and 262 lb-ft of torque, the most standard torque in its class. It features a unique European-tuned suspension and steering matched for handling and improved driving dynamics in the tradition of Volkswagen's German engineering heritage.

Mated with a standard six-speed automatic transmission, the new 2009 Routan's fuel economy is rated by Transport Canada at 8.5 litres per 100 kilometres on the highway and 13.2 litres per 100 kilometres in the city.

Instantly recognizable as a member of the Volkswagen family, with its stylized front grille and exterior treatments, the 2009 Routan features an interior that creates an environment that is visually pleasing, modern and meticulously detailed.

The Routan offers full seating for seven people in three rows with 930 litres of cargo space behind the third row. Its versatility for carrying more cargo increases to a cavernous 2,400 litres when the third row is stowed into the floor. The seatbacks in the second row can be folded flat if even more space is required for longer items, with storage compartments and cup holders available throughout the vehicle.

Standard features in the 2009 Routan include three-zone climate control, a CD player with six speakers, dual sliding side doors, front and side curtain airbags, Tire Pressure Monitoring System (TPMS), and Electronic Stabilization Program (ESP).

Safety remains a priority for passengers, with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) awarding the 2009 Volkswagen Routan with a best-in-class safety rating, with maximum five-star ratings for frontal collisions and for front and rear passengers in side impacts. Its uni-body construction and low centre of gravity allow the 2009 Routan to earn a best-in-class four-star rating for resistance to rollover.

The 2009 Volkswagen Routan will go on sale at Volkswagen dealers across Canada at the end this month.

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SE model shown, MSRP $15,770

The new incredibly fuel-efficient **2009 PONTIAC G3 WAVE.** That's right. No matter what you're driving right now, you're probably spending more time with the gas pump than you want to. Maybe you need to start hanging around with a G3 Wave. With 5.7L/100 KM on the highway and 7.9L/100 KM in the city[1], it's certainly not going to strengthen your relationship with the gas pump, but honestly, what did that old pump really do for you, anyway? The G3 Wave, on the other hand will give you an auxiliary audio input jack, five star rating for frontal impact[2], available side-impact airbags, optional OnStar® and the best coverage in Canada[3]. So go ahead, break old pumpy's heart. And never look back. **Cash Purchase Price at $9,995.***

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*Cash purchase price reflects discounts only available with cash purchase price offer and not available for purchase financing or lease offers. Freight ($1125), licence, insurance, registration, PPSA, administration fees, duties and taxes not included. Dealers are free to set individual prices. See newspaper or your participating dealer for details. [1]When equipped with a 5-speed manual transmission, estimated 2009 ratings, based on GM testing in accordance with approved Transport Canada test methods. Your actual fuel consumption may vary. [2]Equivalent Chevrolet Aveo model tested. US government star ratings are part of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's (NHTSA's) New Car Assessment Program (www.safercar.gov). [3]Whichever comes first. See dealer for limited warranty details.

Honda Fit greener, safer for 2009

Better fuel economy, improved suspension, steering among new features

The 2009 Honda Fit, set to go on sale across Canada on Sept. 15 with a suggested retail price of $14,980, is designed to further its leadership in the subcompact segment with top-of-class fuel economy, feature content, safety and interior functionality.

It features an enhanced sporty demeanour to increase its fun-to-drive character through a more powerful engine and improved suspension, steering and body rigidity.

"The new Fit is designed to raise the bar in the Canadian subcompact market by taking what is already great about the Fit and making it even better," says Jerry Chenkin, executive vice-president of Honda Canada Inc.

"With the recent rise in fuel costs, the fuel-efficient Fit is the ideal vehicle for Canadians looking for lower fuel costs partnered with high value and class-leading functionality."

A five-speed manual transmission is standard for the Fit, and a segment-unique five-speed automatic transmission is available.

Estimated fuel economy with the standard manual transmission is 7.2 litres per 100 kilometres (city) and 5.7 litres per 100 kilometres (highway).

Estimated fuel economy with the optional five-speed automatic transmission is 7.1 litres per 100 kilometres (city) and 5.5 litres per 100 kilometres (highway).

The Fit is designed to lead the subcompact segment with a quality feel and a multi-functional interior. It has become more refined for 2009 with a sportier demeanour through improved suspension, steering and body-rigidity enhancements; an improved rear Magic Seat; and a high level of standard safety equipment, including the addition of the Advanced Compatibility Engineering (ACE) body structure for enhanced crash protection and front seat active head restraints.

The interior provides surprisingly large passenger volume with 2,572 litres and class-leading cargo space of 1,622 litres to maximize passenger comfort and utility. At the foundation is an improved rear Magic Seat (R), now featuring one-motion dive-down functionality, which allows the rear seat to fold flat with the front seats in the rear-most slide position and without removing the rear head restraints. The seats offer multiple seating and cargo-carrying configurations.

A new hidden storage bin under the driver's side rear seat provides a secure place to store small items.

The 2009 Fit comes with standard amenities such as power windows, power mirrors, AM/FM/CD audio system with MP3/WMA playback capability and Radio Data System (RDS).

Other standard features include auxiliary audio input jack, tilt and telescopic steering column, Maintenance Minder, and a fuel consumption display showing current and average fuel consumption to help drivers drive more economically.

The all-new 2009 Honda Fit, available in Canada this fall, features an enhanced fun-to-drive character with increased standard safety features and fuel efficiency.

Engine power

- A new, more powerful 117-horsepower, 1.5-litre i-VTEC four-cylinder engine enhances the Fit's high-revving character while offering improved fuel economy over the previous Fit.

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Fuel consumption††

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L / 100 km (city) **9.8**
L / 100 km (highway) **7.0**

Jetta
L / 100 km (city) **10.4**
L / 100 km (highway) **6.9**

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Take advantage of the City Jetta's 6-speaker MP3 stereo with USB port, 4-wheel disc brakes with ABS and dual front impact airbags. Or enjoy the Jetta's 2.5 L, 170 horsepower engine, 10-speaker MP3 audio system, and more. Visit your Volkswagen dealer or vw.ca for more details.

vw.ca

*MSRP of $16,900/$21,975 for 2008 City Jetta / Jetta with manual transmission. Freight and PDI of $1,335, PPSA, license, insurance, registration, dealer charges, options, and applicable taxes are extra. Dealer may sell for less. **First monthly payment free up to a maximum of $250 for the City Jetta and $400 for the Jetta (taxes included – no cash value). $0 security deposit and $0 down payment offered only on new and in stock 2008 City Jetta / Jetta leased through Volkswagen Finance. Monthly payment of $226/$308 for 48 months based on 1.5% lease APR. Freight and PDI of $1,335 included. PPSA, license, insurance, registration, dealer charges, options and applicable taxes are extra. Limited time lease offer available through Volkswagen Finance on approved credit. MSRP for City Jetta as shown is $20,503 with Siata accessory wheels. MSRP of the Jetta as shown is $23,310. $0.12/km over 80,000 km charged at lease end. At participating Volkswagen dealerships only. Offer ends September 30, 2008 and is subject to change or cancellation without notice. Supplies limited. ††Transport Canada fuel consumption figures are estimates only. Your fuel consumption may vary. See dealer for details. "Volkswagen", the Volkswagen logo, and "Jetta" are registered trademarks of Volkswagen AG. © 2008 Volkswagen Canada.

FIND OUT IF YOU HAVE CANDIDA OVERGROWTH!
YES NO
Cravings for sweets - even after eating?
Feel bloated - is it showing?
Have you taken antibiotics?
Flatulences?
Headaches and mood swings?
Do you use birth control pills?
If you answer yes to 4 out of 6, you may likely have a Candida overgrowth in your intestines. Try dida for 4-6 weeks as a solution.

My stomach is flat again

Cathy Summers was devastated for several years because of her problems with yeast. She felt bloated, had gained weight, craved carbohydrates and her energy levels were lower than ever. It was also putting a real toll on her relationship with her boyfriend Peter.

I WAS DESPERATE

"Nobody seemed to take my condition seriously and no remedy would help me. But through at local health food store I got in contact with a naturopath and he was in no doubt, after hearing my symptoms; I had an imbalance in my intestines between healthy bacteria and yeast cells. He told me how common it is that yeast fungi overgrow in the intestines, but that most people don't know they have the problem. Actually, one in three of his female customers experienced these problems."

I TRIED DIDA

"The naturopath gave me a list of things to avoid, such as white sugar, white flour, candy, processed foods and active yeast (bread). He then put me on two dida tablets a day, for eight weeks and told me to take them with a meal."

NO MORE BLOATING!

"I cannot believe how much my situation has improved since using dida and following the naturopaths recommendations. My stomach is flat again! I am full of energy and my sweet cravings disappeared. It's such a relief to have found a natural solution that works. But best of all - my relationship with Peter is full of life and love again!"

YEAST LOVES SUGAR - BUT HATES CINNAMON!!

Candida fungi can overgrow if you eat a poor diet (refined sugars especially), if you have used antibiotics or birth control pills, or if your immune system is weak (malnutrition, overtraining, bad health in general).

Most people don't even know they suffer from Candida overgrowth, but women recognize it, when they get a yeast infection. The normal medical treatments are lotions or pills. These are effective but don't provide a long-term solution. Furthermore, over 40% of sufferers re-experience Candida problems after using these treatments.

Scientific research shows that especially high concentrations of cinnamon oil, garlic and oregano have a positive influence on the excessive growth of Candida Albicans. Dida™ is based on this research and has been used successfully in Scandinavia for many years.

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Hybrid tech powers new college course

With hybrid-electric vehicles becoming commonplace on Canadian roads, more and more auto technicians and drivers are curious about what goes on under the hood of these gas-saving cars and trucks.

JUSTIN SULLIVAN/GETTY IMAGES

Centennial College is introducing a course for auto technicians and drivers who want to know more about hybrid electric cars.

To that end Centennial College, in collaboration with the Canadian Automotive Repair and Service (CARS) Council, is offering a new training course on hybrid vehicle technology — the first of its kind to be offered in Canada.

The 16-hour training course is designed to give participants an understanding of hybrid-electric technology, including critical safety issues and how to perform routine maintenance and service on current production hybrid component systems from leading manufacturers such as General Motors, Honda and Toyota.

The part-time course is intended for practising automotive technicians that want to offer aftermarket service. It is also an invaluable aid to service advisors, autobody repairers or tow-truck operators who may be first at an accident scene involving a hybrid. Hybrid vehicle owners and enthusiasts can also enrol, although the level of technical information may be high for many laypersons.

A hybrid-electric vehicle combines a conventional gasoline engine with an electric motor fed by an on-board rechargeable energy storage system to achieve better fuel economy than a conventional engine can achieve on its own. The presence of the high-voltage electrical system can be a potential hazard to technicians and shade-tree mechanics who wish to work on these vehicles.

Course details

- Centennial's hybrid technology course begins Sept. 17 at its Ashtonbee Campus in Scarborough, home to Canada's largest transportation technology school. The course is scheduled on Wednesday evenings in four-hour blocks over four weeks. A second class begins on Oct. 22. For more details, visit www.centennialcollege.ca/parttime.

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2008 Saturn ASTRA™ 5-door XR model shown

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CASH PURCHASE PRICE STARTING AT $26,990‡
Excludes hybrid models

2008 Saturn VUE® XR model shown

2008 SATURN AURA XE

HWY - 6.5 L/100 KM (43 MPG)° CITY - 9.6 L/100 KM (29 MPG)°

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CASH PURCHASE PRICE STARTING AT $24,240‡
Excludes hybrid models

2008 Saturn AURA® XR model shown

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¶The 2008 vehicle's Powertrain components are covered by a limited Powertrain component warranty for up to 5 years or 160,000 km, whichever comes first. See Retailer for details and conditions on limited warranty and customer assistance/service features. ^Coverage for up to 5 years or 160,000 km, whichever comes first. ‡Within the first 30 days or 2,500 km of delivery, whichever comes first. You should know this: *Cash purchase price is $29,535 for a 2008 Saturn OUTLOOK XE, includes a $5,000 Canadian Retailer cash credit on all 2008 OUTLOOK models. Such credit is available only for cash purchase and by selecting finance offer; consumers are foregoing such credit which will result in higher effective interest rates. ‡**Freight ($1,300/$1,200/$1,250/$1,220) on a 2008 Saturn ASTRA 5-Door XE/2008 Saturn VUE XE/2008 Saturn AURA XE/2008 Saturn OUTLOOK XE not included. Air tax ($100) if applicable. taxes, license, insurance, registration, administration fees, fees associated with publication/filing at the movable property registry/PPSA, duties, and optional equipment extra. PDI included. ***Retailers are free to set individual prices. Retailer order or trade may be necessary. Offers apply as indicated to new 2008 Saturn ASTRA 5-Door XE, 2008 Saturn AURA XE and 2008 Saturn OUTLOOK XE models (excluding hybrid models) and apply to qualified retail and eligible fleet customers in the Ontario Marketing Association Area only. See your Retailer, visit saturncanada.com or call 1-888-4SATURN for conditions and details. ΔFinancing on approved GMAC credit only. Down payment, trade or security deposit may be required. Monthly payment and cost of borrowing will vary depending on amount borrowed and down payment/trade. Example for a representative credit agreement: $10,000 at 0% APR, the monthly payment is $139 for 72 mos. Cost of borrowing is $0. Total obligation is $10,000. Monthly payment of $198/$278/$258 based on finance purchase price of $16,150/$24,490/$22,240 for a 2008 Saturn ASTRA 5-Door XE/2008 Saturn VUE XE/2008 Saturn AURA XE with $1,900/$4,500/$3,650 down payment (finance purchase price reflects $1,000/$2,500/$2,000 manufacturer-to-retailer incentive, available only with GMAC financing). Financing offer applies to qualified retail and eligible fleet customers only and is not available on hybrid models. ▼Fuel efficiency data was determined using approved Transport Canada test methods. ◊On approved GMAC credit only. See Retailer for details. •Donated vehicles must be licensed and insured for the previous consecutive 6-month period. For eligibility requirements, visit carheaven.ca. ♥With purchase or lease of virtually all 2008 new or demonstrator models delivered from Retailer stock between June 19, 2008 and September 30, 2008, and with payment of an additional $0.01, customers receive a Preferred Price™ gas savings card, redeemable for $0.20 per litre savings on 2,500 L of motor fuel. The $0.20 savings includes applicable taxes. Cards valid only at participating Petro-Canada locations (and other approved North Atlantic Petroleum locations in Newfoundland) and not redeemable for cash. All 2008 Saturn vehicles are eligible. GM reserves the right to amend or terminate this offer and/or the program for any reason, in whole or in part, at any time without notice. ™Trademark of Petro-Canada. Used under license. ©2008 Saturn Corporation. Saturn, its logos and vehicle names are trademarks or registered trademarks of Saturn Corporation. All Rights Reserved.

$1-billion endowment strengthens UBC credit rating

Moody's Canada, an independent credit rating agency, gave the University of British Columbia an Aa1 rating in its latest annual report on the university. The high ranking is attributed to UBC's endowment fund, which topped the $1-billion mark earlier this year. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Workology

Centennial College

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Wrongful resignation can prove very costly

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Daniel Lublin
dan@toronto-employmentlawyer.com

"Bradley's failure to provide appropriate notice of his resignation proved costly; he was ordered to pay $10,000."

Seldom do employers bother to sue their ex-employees. But the tables are turned when a hasty resignation proves costly.

Few have heard of a lawsuit for wrongful resignation. Once thought to be a remote claim, there are cases that have found their way to the courts in recent years and awakened the prospects of companies looking to recover damages caused by an employee who departs without giving a sufficient warning or even a goodbye.

• Gary Bradley's resignation was untimely for his ex-employer Carleton Electric. Offering his services for only a few weeks after he announced his resignation, Carleton Electric was left with economic losses given Bradley's hasty exit. But when Bradley sued for unpaid wages, his ex-employer was reeling. Instead of simply defending the merits of Bradley's lawsuit alone, it responded by suing him for wrongful resignation — and won. Bradley's failure to provide appropriate notice of his resignation proved costly; he was ordered to pay Carleton $10,000.

• When the general manager and two salesmen of Sure-Grip Fasteners left, without notice, and opened a competing business a few kilometres away, Sure-Grip was left without a sales staff in southern Ontario. To make matters worse, its former employees started to solicit orders from their former customers. But at trial it was awarded $75,000 from the group of ex-employees for their failure to give reasonable notice of their resignations.

Few employers bother to sue ex-employees for not providing enough notice of their resignation. As these examples demonstrate, however, these lawsuits typically arise in the context of defending a claim by ex employees. So if you are thinking about resigning, here are four legal principles to keep your career on track — and your case out of the courtroom:

• The proper measure to calculate an employee's duty to give notice is based on the amount of time that it would reasonably require the employer to find his or her replacement.

• If you possess specialized skills or are contemplating leaving the employer in a vulnerable situation, your duty to give advanced notice is heightened.

• In assessing your obligation, consider the labour market and the ability of your employer to replace you.

• You may have a contractual duty to give advanced notice. Have counsel review your employment agreement with a view to determining whether any specific period of notice was agreed to and whether it must be followed.

Daniel A. Lublin is an employment lawyer focusing on the law of dismissal; dan@toronto-employmentlawyer.com.

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Nursing students "poorest of them all"
Nursing students in Canada are the "poorest of them all," according to a survey conducted by studentawards.com. About 75 per cent of nursing students will have less than $5,000 at the beginning of the school year. METRO NEWS SERVICES

ADVERTISING FEATURE

Centennial perfect fit for journalist

Good fortune handed young Shannon Boodram her first camera, which would fuel her interest in visual arts and, eventually, journalism.

"My father had taken me to Woodbine racetrack and bet on a horse for me. It finished first and he gave me the winnings," she recalls with a smile. "I spent it on a camera."

That little camera helped Boodram learn skills both as a photographer and as a keen observer of life.

Growing up in Pickering, she became adept as a writer, too. But she was also a budding track and field star in high school, and Boodram ended up applying to Coppin State University in Baltimore, where she received a full track scholarship.

She found the experience fun but unsatisfying.

"I loved the time I had there, but I wanted to work on my writing. The emphasis on sports in American schools was too much," she recalls. "I missed the balance I had at home."

After one year, Boodram returned home and joined Centennial College's journalism program, offered jointly with the University of Toronto at Scarborough.

"There's an emphasis on writing in the program, and it also gives you a taste of different media, including broadcasting and even podcasting."

In addition to college, she started to volunteer at Rogers Television's Durham studios, where she learned to write for television, do standup reports, and other tasks behind and in front of the camera.

The experience paid off. Rogers was looking for a host of a cable show called High School Rush and Boodram clinched the audition last year. She immediately put her fingerprints on the half-hour newsmagazine show by bringing new ideas to the format.

Sharon Boodram started developing an interest in journalism when her dad gave her his track winings and she decided to buy a camera.

At the same time, Centennial assigned Boodram to work at MTV's Canadian headquarters, where she did background research on musicians, transcribed shows and other intern-type tasks.

Beyond her broadcasting work, Boodram continued to write, contributing to several publications and websites — including CBC News, Urbanology and Peace magazine — and picked up her camera again to work as a freelance photographer.

"Being good at one discipline, I think, suggests you can be good at all of them," Boodram says of her ease in moving from one medium to another. She makes it look easy, which can be misleading.

"People think these jobs are glamorous, but they're tiring and tough and draining. Whoever is left still standing at the end of the process gets the job," Boodram observes.

She graduated from Centennial in June and hasn't looked back. She's currently working on a new show for Rogers and growing her photography business.

"Build a name for yourself through a collection of experiences," she advises others who wish to follow. And leave the good fortune to the horses.

For more on Centennial's media programs, visit: centennialcollege.ca/thecentre. –MARK TOLJAGIC

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Brokeback tops gay list
Brokeback Mountain has topped a new list of the best gay movies. The 2005 film beat Beautiful Thing and Shelter to the top of a new online poll compiled by website AfterElton.com. IMDB.COM

Entertainment

Tori bestseller
Actress Tori Spelling's memoir, Stori Telling, has reached the top of the New York Times Nonfiction Bestseller List, according to figures released by the national newspaper. E! NEWS ONLINE

EDITOR: TINA COSTANZA, TINA.COSTANZA@METRONEWS.CA

Post-Oscar flops

Some filmmakers fail to follow up on success

STEVE GOW
for Metro Canada

Some critics are downright disheartened by Burn After Reading — the Coen Brothers' highly-anticipated follow-up to No Country for Old Men.

Todd McCarthy of Variety even called it a "film that feels misjudged from the opening scene and thereafter." That's pretty surprising for the subsequent effort to last year's Academy Award-winning Best Film. Isn't it?

Well, not exactly.

While no one is slotting Burn After Reading in the same category as say, SuperBabies: Baby Geniuses 2, the quirky comedy could still prove that winning an Academy Award does not always guarantee a director will go on to make an immediate masterpiece.

Take John Madden for instance, who followed up his award-winning romantic-drama Shakespeare in Love with the dreary Nicolas Cage adaptation of Captain Corelli's Mandolin. And don't forget filmmaker Rob Marshall who won the Oscar for Chicago only to let movie fans down with Memoirs of a Geisha two years later.

These are just two critically-praised filmmakers who failed to follow up their statuettes with a masterful flick.

In 1985, filmmaker Sydney Pollack took Robert Redford Out of Africa and transported him to stinky Havana. The huge 1990 epic was a bust both at the box office and with critics.

Peter Travers of Rolling Stone wrote, "You expect more of stars Robert Redford and Lena Olin, director Sydney Pollack and a $40-million budget than an uncredited and unpalatable rehash of Casablanca."

Yikes! That's a long road from standing behind the winner's podium at the Oscars show.

Perhaps the biggest post-Oscar flop has come courtesy of none other than Ron Howard. Skilled as he is behind the camera, after taking home the big prize for 2001's A Beautiful Mind, the actor-turned-auteur came up with The Missing.

With a budget of $65 million, the Tommy Lee Jones/Cate Blanchett thriller was a huge post-Oscar disappointment, earning less than half its budget back. It seems the only thing really missing was a follow-up movie that an audience was hungry to see.

Whether Burn After Reading will fall under the same curse that The Missing did is yet to be determined, but perhaps that doesn't even concern the Coens.

Instead, maybe the brothers share the theory of journalist Herbert B. Swope who once said, "I cannot give the formula for success, but I can give you the formula of failure — which is try to please everybody."

Ethan and Joel Coen review a take with actor George Clooney on the set of Burn After Reading, which opens Friday.

Oprah Winfrey to guest on 30 Rock

Oprah

TV Oprah Winfrey will be starring in an upcoming episode of hit comedy 30 Rock, imdb.com reports. The media titan was earlier this month rumoured to be making a guest appearance. Alec Baldwin, who stars in the comedy, has confirmed the chat queen will feature in the series. METRO NEWS SERVICES

In brief

MUSIC Oasis postponed their concert in London, Ont., yesterday after guitarist Noel Gallagher was injured when a man ran onto the stage during a performance at the Virgin Festival in Toronto Sunday. The band says it's keen to visit the southern Ontario city later this year. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Gossip Girl's Meester writes album

Gossip Girl star Leighton Meester, left, is moving from the small screen to the recording studio — the actress is writing her first album, reports imdb.com. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Doc Walker: Five-time winners

Manitoba band takes home best album at Canadian Country Music Awards

It's turning out to be a beautiful life indeed for the members of Doc Walker, the Manitoba band that cleaned up at the Canadian Country Music Awards on Monday night.

The hometown favourite walked away with five of the coveted statues at an awards ceremony in Winnipeg.

After winning songwriter of the year for the hit Beautiful Life at a gala on Sunday night, the group picked up everything the following evening from best song and album of the year to best video and group of the year.

Thank you Winnipeg, lead singer Chris Thorsteinson said to a standing ovation. "You guys have been wonderful. The fans are wonderful, (you) keep us doing this."

The band — made up of Thorsteinson, Dave Wasyliw and Murray Pulver — also took home the sought-after fans' choice award, beating out heavyweights such as Paul Brandt, George Canyon, Emerson Drive and Jessie Farrell.

It was a welcome homecoming for Doc Walker, which recently lost one of its biggest fans, Thorsteinson's mother, Betty.

"This one here I'm going to dedicate to my mom," said Thorsteinson as the band accepted the award for best single, his voice wavering.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

JOHN WOODS/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Doc Walker accepts the album of the year award at the 2008 Canadian Country Music Awards in Winnipeg.

In brief

TV Jennifer Lopez will reportedly judge the final of hit U.S. TV show Project Runway, imdb.com reports. The actress is lined up to be one of the judging panel on the deciding show of the series on Friday, according to Usmagazine.com. And although not officially confirmed by program bosses, judge Nina Garcia has already hinted at Lopez's participation.

BEAUTY TV talk-show host Ellen DeGeneres is reportedly set to follow in the footsteps of Rihanna and Drew Barrymore by becoming the latest face of cosmetics company CoverGirl, imdb.com reports.

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Knightley has had enough of Pirates

Keira Knightley has no intention of starring in a new Pirates of the Caribbean movie. The actress, who has played in three films in the franchise, admits even if producers ask her to reprise her role she would turn them down. FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK

Rising stars design for Emmys

Project Runway winner and The Hills actress to dress celebs

It has the makings of a reality show: Both Project Runway winner Christian Siriano and The Hills star Lauren Conrad are creating gowns for this month's Emmy Awards.

Siriano's selection as designer for one of the so-called "trophy girls" who hand over Emmy statues to presenters was announced Monday. The TV academy previously said Conrad, who's started her own clothing line, will be dressing a trophy bearer.

Siriano was the winning designer on last season's Project Runway.

Christian Siriano

"It has been so inspiring watching the Emmys every year to see who is going to be the most fabulous diva at the show. ... It will be such an experience seeing my own creation on stage," he said in a statement.

Siriano will have Project Runway company, with the show's Heidi Klum serving as one of five reality show hosts who are to emcee the awards. All five are nominated in a new category recognizing their work.

Besides Klum, they include Tom Bergeron of Dancing With The Stars; Ryan Seacrest of American Idol; Howie Mandel of Deal Or No Deal and Jeff Probst of Survivor.

The 60th Primetime Emmy Awards are set to air Sept. 21 on ABC.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Juno what?

- Vancouver will host the 38th Annual Juno Awards on March 29, CTV and The Canadian Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences announced yesterday.

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	400	400	30	TSN	2008 World Series of Poker		MLB Baseball Toronto Blue Jays at Chicago White Sox. (HDTV) (Live)						SportsCentre
	411	457	58	OLN	Ed's Up	Videos	The Real Lost World				Word Travels	Globe Guides	Pilot Guides
	417	406	81	SC	Pinks (HDTV)	Pass Time	Am. Thunder	Am. Thunder	Pinks (HDTV)	Pinks Outtakes	Wrecked	Wrecked	Pinks (HDTV)
	551	542	25	YTV	Malcolm-Mid.	Home Improve.	Prank Patrol	Futurama	Prank Patrol	Mystery Hnt.	Adrenaline Proj	Prank Patrol	Mystery Hnt.
	554	544	45	TEL	George-Jungle	Bugs Bunny & Tweety Show		6teen	Total Drama	Futurama	The Critic (N)	Robot Chicken	Daughter-Devil
	556	540	51	FAM	Wizards-Place	That's-Raven	The Suite Life	Natural-Sadie	Han. Montana	Life Derek	Ned's School	Cory in House	The Suite Life
	602	567	27	W	Will & Grace	Friends	Grocery Bag	What You Eat	Supersize vs. Superskinny (N)		Gok's Fashion Fix (N)		Style by Jury
	570	580	29	MM	America's Top Pop Group		2008 MTV Video Music Awards Host Russell Brand.				Punk'd	Born to Be	disBand
	615	520	31	A&E	CSI: Miami "Killer Date"		Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Criss Angel	Criss Angel	Criss Angel
	700	800	35	TLN	Centrovetrine	Sky TG 24	La Figlia di Elisa Ritorno a Rivombrosa				Raymond	Raymond	George Lopez
	571	581	36	MMM	mmmtop	Popaganda		Back In	Listed		Brooke Knows	Where You At	Party of Five
	575	583	38	CMT	CMT at the 2008 CCMA's		Beyond Chance		Reba	Hope & Faith	Home Improve.	Home Improve.	Rascal Flatts
	616	521	39	SHO	Kink in Hair	Kink in Hair	Billable Hours	Billable Hours	Durham County		The Riches (N)		House
	620	523	40	BVO	Desperate Housewives		Berkeley	Bravo!Videos	Wingfield	The Letters	Arts & Minds	The Achievers	Law & Order
	601	562	41	SLC	End of Leash	ET Canada	X-Weighted "Sharla"		Work Out		Inside Hollywood		X-Weighted
	522	506	43	HIS	NCIS "Sandblast"		Cities of the Underworld		Captain Bligh Conspiracy		NCIS "Sandblast"		Crime Stories
	625	548	44	COM	Air Farce	Just for Laughs		Corner Gas	The Simpsons	South Park	Lewis Black	RENO 911! (N)	Daily Show
	600	564	46	H&G	House Hunters	Property Virgin	Property Shop	Big City Broker	Property Virgin	Unsellable	Flipping Out "The Flip Side"		Holmes-Homes
	294	529	47	TBS	Family Guy	Family Guy	*Absolute Power* ★★ (1997, Suspense) Clint Eastwood, Gene Hackman.					Seinfeld	Friends
	576	582	49	BET	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live		Access	Black Carpet	*Hustle & Flow* ★★★ (2005, Drama) Terrence Howard, Taryn Manning.				
	627	528	50	SPC	Lost "Tabula Rasa"		Star Trek: Deep Space Nine		Battlestar Galactica		Ghost Hunters International		Stargate SG-1
	581	566	52	MTV	Busted	After	Canada's Next Top Model		From G's to Gents		Run's House	Buzzin	MTV Live
	618	524	54	TROP	Beverly Hills, 90210		Reality	What Happen?	Family Guy	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	'70s Show	Family Guy
	603	561	56	FOOD	Road Grill	Licence to Grill	Restaurant Makeover		Iron Chef America		Italian Escape	Italian Escape	Challenge
	261	394	60	V	Murder, She Wrote		Chambers	No Place Like	Darling Buds of May (N)		Enigma		Hope Island
	621	527	63	STR	The Ellen DeGeneres Show		TMZ (N)	eTalk	Live at eTalk	Live at eTalk	The Tonight Show-Jay Leno		TMZ
	553	546	65	TRE	Wonder Pets	Nght Grdn	Bucket-Dinos	Franklin	Little Bear	Miss Spider	Comfy Couch	Rolie Polie Olie	Beren. Bears
	115	711	101	TVA	Qui a tué?	Poule-oeufs or	Destinées (N) (SC)		Lise Dion 20 ans de carrière		TVA 22 heures	(10:45) Denis Lévesque	
	126	730	102	RDI	RDI en direct sur l'actualité		Grands reportages (SC)		Le Téléjournal (SC)		Le Club des ex	Le National	Le Téléjournal
	526	507	249	CLT	Judging Amy		*Agnes Browne* ★★ (1999, Drama) Anjelica Huston.				Mysterious Ways		Judging Amy
	300	601	301	M1	(7:05) *Poor Boy's Game* ★★★ (2007, Drama)				*Lust, Caution* ★★ (2007, Suspense) Tony Leung Chiu Wai, Joan Chen.				
	305	612	306	PIX	*Nat. Lamp Trip*	*The Best Bad Thing* (1998, Drama)			*Cape Fear* ★★★ (1962, Suspense) Gregory Peck.				*Cape Fear*

critics' corner

The Berkeley Sessions

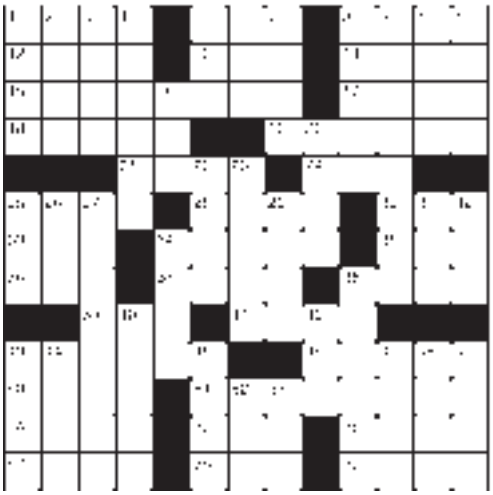
No, not the California university. This new series is a showcase for musical performances at Toronto's Berkeley Church, an imposing yet intimate venue for all kinds of special events. The opener features indie rocker Joel Plaskett performing with his dad, Bill, a veteran of the Nova Scotia folk scene. 8 PM on BVO

Anna and Kristina's Grocery Bag

Who wants dessert? They may be yummy, but preparing a sweet treat that not only tastes good but is worthy of its cookbook illustration is tricky. Just ask Anna and Kristina, who put a dessert cookbook to the test in this new episode. Pastry chef Thomas Hass is on hand to pass judgment on the finished product. 8 PM on W

George not godfather material?
Brad Pitt is shooting down rumours that fellow actor George Clooney is the godfather of his twins Knox and Vivienne. "No, he hates children," Pitt joked to Extra. USMAGAZINE.COM

Take Five



Crossword down

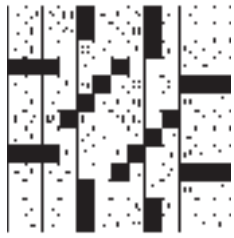
1 Probability
2 Bride's accessory
3 Otherwise
4 Well
5 Auto
6 Affix
7 Fence part
8 Perfect
9 Reveal
10 Sea eagle
11 Progeny
16 Mimic
20 Start over
22 Yellow-flowered shrub
23 Dark, as twilight
25 Big fib
26 Intend
27 Find
29 Reverberate
31 Teensy
32 Toddler's perch
34 "Consarn it!"
38 Facial growths
40 Biscotti flavor
42 Fabled flier
43 Run-down part of the city
44 Mexican money
45 Advantage
47 Blue shade
48 Blood (Pref.)
49 Flight component
52 Squid fluid
53 Seek damages

Find today's answer and play more games online at metronews.ca

Crossword across

1 Microwave, e.g.
5 Upper limit
8 Mid-month date
12 Sandwich shop
13 Ruckus
14 Catastrophic
15 Tosses out
17 Slave to crosswords?
18 Insomniac's need
19 Found the source of
21 Unchaste
24 Right angle
25 "— and the Tramp"
28 Coloured
30 One who gives a hoot?
33 Midafternoon, on a sundial
34 "Saturday Night Fever" venue
35 Vast expanse
36 Type squares
37 Egyptian cross
38 Honk
39 Sardines container
41 Bygone times
43 Moocher
46 Dirty words
50 Jeans-maker Strauss
51 Unobtrusive
54 Works with
55 Wildebeest
56 Knighted woman
57 Oliver Twist's request
58 — out a living
59 Feed the hogs

previous day's answer



Horoscopes

AVATAR VENUS

ARIES
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
Make a decision and you stand your ground. A new adventure will be a no-win situation. A naive person will be getting ahead.

TAURUS
APRIL 21-MAY 21
Snooping and sarcasm will cause problems. Flee when a finicky man gets into a snit. A woman reveals some pleasant news.

GEMINI
MAY 22-JUNE 21
Management won't allow you to be too thrilling. An anxious person will be very annoying. When you want something enough, you'll grab it.

CANCER
JUNE 22-JULY 22
Ancient wisdom will come in handy. A missing object is responsible for painful memories. Seek guidance when a relationship causes turmoil.

LEO
JULY 23-AUG 23
Somebody's diplomatic tactics will be tested. Only you can manage a visionary idea. An elder will surface after spending time with a friend.

VIRGO
AUG 24-SEPT 22
There will be happy hours spent with strangers. Your chances of making a fresh start will increase. You'll be flustered when a remark is overheard.

LIBRA
SEPT 23-OCT 23
A no-win situation will bite the dust. A buddy's loyalty will give you strength. An adversary will get aggravated dealing with a challenge.

SCORPIO
OCT 24-NOV 22
A cynic plans to make a significant move. A woman feels confused by a needy person. A game player just can't be changed.

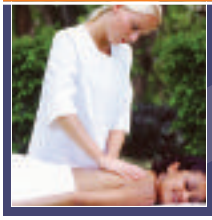
SAGITTARIUS
NOV 23-DEC 21
Something confidential will be blurted out. A friend is getting special treatment. Someone will learn from a bad example.

CAPRICORN
DEC 22-JAN 20
Obey the dictates of your conscience. Set out your talents for the whole world to see. Be polite when asked for your opinion.

AQUARIUS
JAN 21-FEB 18
Your natural traits will bring in a surprise. Intense moments are shared with a friend. Cherish today and don't worry about tomorrow.

PISCES
FEB 19-MARCH 20
Concentrate on avoiding a stumbling block. You'll attract attention when you take a rest. Make plans to get help when a visitor arrives.

Interested in a career as a Massage Therapist?



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Sudoku

		5				6	8	
6	8						7	
			9		8	5		
		7			5	9		8
			1		4			
9		1	2			3		
		4	3		1			
	1						9	3
	2	6				7		

HOW TO PLAY SUDOKU:
The digits 1 through 9 will appear exactly once in each row, each column, and each zone. (A zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine of these zones in the puzzle.) Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same 3x3 zone, or in the same row across the puzzle, or column down the puzzle.

previous day's answer

8	2	3	4	5	6	9	7	1
9	4	1	8	7	2	5	3	6
7	5	6	1	3	9	2	4	8
1	6	2	5	4	7	3	8	9
5	3	9	2	8	1	4	6	7
4	8	7	6	9	3	1	5	2
6	1	4	7	2	5	8	9	3
2	9	8	3	6	4	7	1	5
3	7	5	9	1	8	6	2	4

SUDOKU SOLVE TIME:
Under 13 min . . . . . Genius
13-17 min . . . . . Scholar
17-21 min . . . . . Smart
21-25 min . . . . . Not bad
25+ min . . . . Keep practising

Today's answer and play more games at metronews.ca

Toronto weather

The Weather Network
theweathernetwork.com

Afternoon	Tonight	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Partly cloudy. 18°	Clear. 10°	Sunny. 22°/ 16°	Rain. 80% 22°/ 18°	Rain. 60% 23°/ 17°

Temperature Normals
High: 23.4°
Low: 11.5°

Records
High: 34.8°/2002
Low: 1.7°/1975

Sunrise: 6:52 a.m.
Sunset: 7:37 p.m.
Moonset: 1:27 a.m.
Moonrise: 5:23 p.m.

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Boy for Bernal
Actor Gael Garcia Bernal and actress Dolores Fonzi are expecting a boy. "It's a chico! A boy!" he told People. PEOPLE.COM

Celebrity Buzz

Driver gives birth to boy

MOTHERHOOD Minnie Driver became a first-time mom to son Henry Story Driver, People.com reports her rep as saying.

The baby was born Friday in Los Angeles and weighed nine pounds 12 ounces, rep Jessica Kolstad says.

Driver, 38, who has not revealed the identity of the father, has said that the dad will be involved in the baby's life.

"He's going to be a dad so, yeah, he's going to be there for the kid," she said. "I'm not getting married to this person and I don't know what's going to happen but everyone is cool about the situation."

As the new mom takes on her most important role yet, Driver says she is looking forward to simply observing and spending time with her child.

"Babies are endlessly fascinating to look at and I'm obsessed about their complete and utter lack of guile. I'm looking forward to seeing life through the eyes of my own kid."

She also says she plans on spending lots of time hanging out at the beach with her child.

"I love the ocean and this baby will probably be surfing and swimming before it can walk."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

GETTY IMAGES PHOTOS

Kids changed Damon

CHILDREN Actor Matt Damon loves that he's become a dad again because his new baby daughter has opened up his heart, imdb.com reports.

Damon's wife Luciana Barroso gave birth to the couple's second child, Gia Zavala Damon, last month.

"It probably influences me in ways I'm not even aware of," Damon said. "I think certainly once you have kids it's hard not to see your child in every other child that you meet. And when you see the way a lot of children live in the world it makes you very angry as a parent."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

ENZA SUPERMODEL/FOR METRO CANADA

celebrity brief

Barton gets hair fashion line

PEOPLE Actress Mischa Barton is to launch her own range of hair accessories, imdb.com reports.

The former O.C. star has teamed up with accessories designer Stacey Lapidus on a line called Mischa Barton for Stacey Lapidus. Barton's range of headbands will be made from materials including silk, feathers, crystals and pearls.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

celebrity brief

Child star points blame at family

HEALTH Former child star Corey Feldman blames his parents for pushing him into acting at an early age, and reportedly holds them responsible for his troubled life, imdb.com reports.

"It wasn't the industry's fault, it was my parents' — they should have been more responsible and laid the groundwork for me to build a healthy adult life," Feldman says. "I was 17 and already I'd become a joke to some people."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

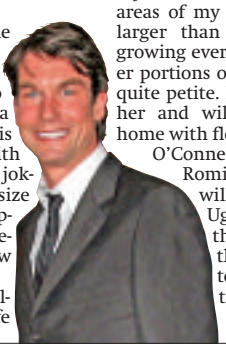
O'Connell sorry for gaffe

RELATIONSHIPS Jerry O'Connell admits he made a big mistake, People.com reports.

The star of the new sitcom Do Not Disturb is apologizing to wife Rebecca Romijn — who is pregnant with twin girls — for joking about her size when he appeared on a late-night talk show recently.

"I regret calling my wife 'huge' on Conan O'Brien," O'Connell says. "I meant to say that there are specific areas of my wife that are larger than normal and growing every day. All other portions of my wife are quite petite. I apologize to her and will be coming home with flowers."

O'Connell, 34, and Romijn, 36, who will appear on Ugly Betty again this fall, expect their daughters this winter. METRO NEWS SERVICES



celebrity brief

Simpson excited for pregnant sis

FAMILY Jessica Simpson can't wait for her sister Ashlee to give birth, us-magazine.com reports.

"I'm going to spoil the kid rotten, that's for sure," she says. "I think my sister's going to be pretty strict, actually, because she's been so good throughout her pregnancy." METRO NEWS SERVICES

"This makes no sense at all..."

by Joe O'Neill

Jerry O'Connell says he made a big mistake on **Conan O'Brien's** show when he joked about the size of **Rebecca Romijn**, who is expecting the couple's twins.

This statement shows Jerry is a master of the understatement. Apparently, his Secret Identity is being a huge idiot. It's hard to believe anyone with such a poor grasp of the female psyche ever got close enough to one to get her pregnant.

Jerry needs to read the pregnancy book I wrote especially for celebrity fathers-to-be. It's called Celebspawn: Anticipating the Arrival of Your Craven Publicist's Future Pawns. In it, Jerry will learn many women are apt to feel self-conscious about their size while pregnant and may be sensitive to remarks you make about it on, say, national television. He will learn nicknames like Goodyear, Earthball and H.R. Puffinstuff are rarely appreciated. He'll learn the three stages of celebrity pregnancy are gestation, child birth, and negotiation with People magazine for the photo rights. And, lastly, Jerry will learn that if he doesn't let her cool down, the flowers he brings home will also be his dinner. I believe it was Shakespeare who wrote, "Hell hath no fury like a pregnant woman mocked on Conan."

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CITY: 11 L/100KM 26 MPG

LX model shown

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